



## Treasures of Tibet in town

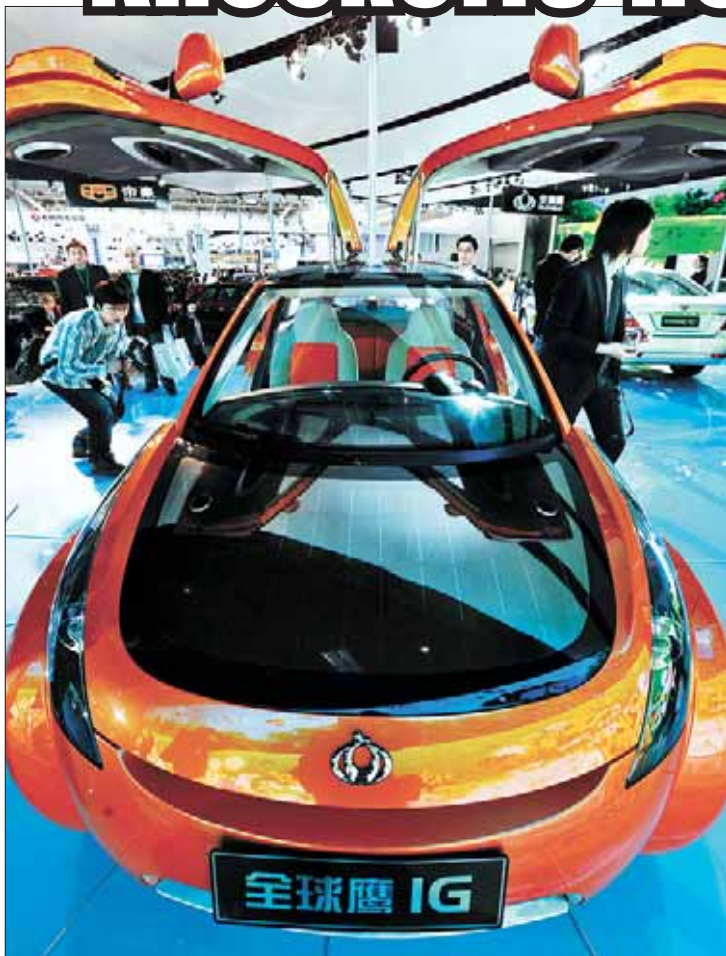
Pages 20-21



## New face of 798 District

Pages 23-24

# Knockoffs no more



CFP Photo

If the Beijing International Auto Exhibition is any indication, Chinese carmakers are fuelled up and ready to battle international competitors for their share of the market.

Led by Geely and BYD, their high-tech new-energy cars and designs are crushing the myth that domestic carmakers are copiers, not innovators.

Read more on Pages 6 and 15.

## A choice of pandas or progress

Page 3

## Mall serves as set in new live drama

Page 4

## Profs say top schools not 'world class'

Page 7

## New cinema embraces the art house

Pages 12-13

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# 20-year travel ban on HIV/AIDS carriers ends

By Liang Meilan

Just days before the opening of the Shanghai Expo, expected to draw 4 million overseas visitors to the coastal city, the State Council announced an end to its travel ban on foreigners carrying HIV/AIDS.

The lifting of the 20-year ban follows revisions to the Border Quarantine Law and the Law on Control of the Entry and Exit of Aliens. Mao Qun'an, spokesman for the Ministry of Health, said the groundwork began years ago.

According to a statement released Tuesday by the State Council, the decision was based on new knowledge about the diseases and evidence that the ban

met with very limited success. The ban was a massive inconvenience when hosting international activities such as the Beijing Olympics in 2008.

It also said previous temporary suspensions of the ban showed that foreigners carrying HIV/AIDS and leprosy did not cause a public health crisis with their presence. The ban was first relaxed for the Asian Games in Beijing in 1990.

The statement said there is no risk of a large-scale outbreak of these diseases based on evidence that daily contact does not cause infection. HIV/AIDS is transmitted by blood or body fluid contact, and leprosy is

spread through open wounds.

"The knee-jerk ban began in the 1980s and was based on fear and obsolete information. As there are people living with HIV/AIDS in every province in China, a travel ban on foreigners does little to help safeguard public health," said He Xiong, deputy director of the Beijing Center for Disease Prevention and Control.

Zhang Beichuan, a medical professor at Qingdao University and a leading HIV/AIDS rights advocate, hailed the move as a big step.

The government once ignorantly viewed HIV/AIDS as foreign diseases related to

"immoral lifestyles," but now the government views them scientifically as a public health issue, he said.

An online public poll on the ban by *China Daily* and health.sohu.com last week found that 84 percent of those polled opposed a lifting of the ban. Many said it would bring disaster to the country.

But Jing Jun, a sociology professor with Tsinghua University and senior expert on HIV/AIDS, disagreed. "Public opinion is often wrong. People's misunderstandings come from lack of scientific knowledge and discrimination," he noted.

Mark Stirling, UNAIDS'

country coordinator, spoke highly of China's act and said the step makes China a global leader on the HIV/AIDS issue. "[The dissenting voices] show a will to protect the motherland," he said while noting their fear reflects inadequate AIDS education.

The government also narrowed its entry restrictions on the mentally ill and those carrying tuberculosis to ban only patients who are "severely mentally ill" and whose tuberculosis is infectious.

HIV/AIDS patients are still banned from traveling to 60 countries; 110 allow them entry. The US and Korea lifted their bans in January.

## Senior centers suffer in regulation limbo



Rapid changes in city lifestyles and growing work pressures have many seniors and their children looking to community care.

By Li Zhixin

The Pingguoyuan senior center in Shijingshan District, sponsored by the Pingguoyuan Neighborhood Committee, closed earlier this month. The 400-square-meter courtyard opened in 2007 as the area's first senior center.

Like most senior centers, it fell into a legal black hole that made aid inaccessible. No laws exist to set professional standards for the centers or even define what they are. That may change later this year if the Municipal Committee for Aging People Services (MCPS) persuades the government to pass new policies.

The centers, usually run by the community or a for-profit commercial group, provide day services to elderly Beijingers who are unable to care for themselves while their children are at work. They give old people a safe environment to meet and socialize where food and medical aid are available.

But as the Pingguoyuan Neighborhood Committee discovered, those services come at a price.

"It simply cost too much to run," said Zhang Weimin, the neighborhood committee's vice director. "We planned to offer food and other services for old people every day, but found that after paying the rent we had little left over."

To cut costs, the committee outsourced its food to a fast-food company preferring to manage only the courtyard. "Eventually, the seniors quit coming because they complained about the food that company provided. Most moved on to one of the 13 other centers that had better food," he said.

Senior centers sponsored by non-governmental institutions and private individuals have been springing up all over the city since 2005 because they have access to better staff and funding than community-run centers.

Most of the city's 2,500 senior centers are funded by non-governmental institutions or individuals. But fund imbalances could force them to close since they are unable to access government support.

"Starting and maintaining a

senior center takes total involvement. It can't be thrust on one community or one organization or one government. The centers need financial and social support, but neither is available because of their ambiguous legal status," said Wang Qian, spokeswoman for the Shijingshan Bureau of Civil Affairs.

Aging Beijingers are traditionally cared for by their children. But rapid changes in city lifestyles and growing work pressures have many seniors and their children looking to community care.

The municipal government announced its new "90-6-4 policy" earlier this year to urge 90 percent of the elderly to seek home-based care, 6 percent to rely on the community and 4 percent to live on the dole.

Part of the plan involves encouraging non-governmental organizations and individuals to participate in the establishing and maintaining senior centers. However, policies on geriatric care, an ever-expanding industry, are vague and that prevents many from operating legally.

## Gov moves to take hard line on home speculators

By Zhao Hongyi

With new policies and measures targeting property coming from the central government this month, the Beijing market is at a crossroads.

While more property is available, no one is buying it.

Property prices in Beijing, Shanghai, Hangzhou and Wuhan have grown exponentially due in part to high demand and rampant speculation.

In Beijing, the cost of property within Third Ring Road rose to 50,000 yuan per square meter. It is 20,000 yuan at Fifth Ring Road. Many urban residents have panicked, buying far more expensive homes than they can afford.

But most of this property ends up in the hands of speculators, who sit on it and drive up prices.

It seems like an odd decision until one realizes these speculators are paying almost no property taxes and have the resources and connections to acquire unlimited private loans.

Families, especially the poor, can do little except sigh.

The State Council announced its determination to curb soaring property prices across the country at its monthly meeting on April 14 and rolled out several policies to counter the bubble.

The policies include increasing down payments, refusing all loans that will be used to purchase a third house or apartment and the construction and sale of government-subsidized houses and apartments.

In Beijing, the municipal authorities began setting up rules and steps to implement the central government's new policies. The new restrictions

seek to penalize speculators by monitoring their purchases and by cutting them off from speculating on the cheap, government-subsidized apartments that come with private benefits.

Speculators seem to have viewed the move as an attack, as their purchase shot up 40 percent this month. By contrast, the number of families buying a new home fell 80 percent this month. The buyers of new properties also fell 20 percent.

The new homes and apartments for sale are located mostly in areas like Tongzhou, Wangjing, Yizhuang, Daxing and Changping.

"The new policies represent the government's most proactive measures to date," said Zhang Dawei, researcher at Centaline Group, a major property agent. He noted they cracked down hardest on speculators and purchasers of luxury properties.

Hu Jinghui, deputy manager of 5i5j.com, a new property agent, said speculators are escaping but did not forecast a corresponding price drop.

"All the prices depend on new properties entering the market," Hu said. "It will be another month before we can tell what the speculators are thinking."

Many local governments in China rely on profits from land sales to balance their budgets. Every state-owned commercial bank has granted tremendous loans to the property market.

The central government began building low-priced apartments for families in 2000. However, nearly all of these properties, once intended for the poor who could not afford commercial properties, were purchased by rich people and government officials.



# Panda population comes under the ax of 'progress'

By Han Manman

It has been 30 years since China started to save the giant panda. That history reads like a log of misguided efforts to save the world's best-known endangered species.

Although conservationists have kept the giant panda population at 1,600, experts warned the species still faces extinction: this time at the hands of the unfeeling monster called "economic development."

## Into the world of pandas

Creeping through a bamboo thicket, a short-haired young researcher holds her breath as she glimpses a sight rarely seen in the wild: a mother giant panda and her newborn cub.

But the scene comes from *Real Panda*, a documentary screened for Beijing audiences earlier this month. It is the first of its kind based on rare footage collected by wild panda researchers Pan Wenshi and Lu Zhi over the last 19 years.

Living in inhospitable conditions for long periods, the two Peking University zoologists collected the world's largest body of first-hand panda research.

Lu, who still cuts her hair short, has spent 25 years studying pandas. She began in 1985 when she set out for field work in the Qinling mountains together with her professor, Pan, and other researchers.

Lu said she has been lucky. Few researchers have ever seen a panda in the wild, but she saw four bear pandas fighting to get a chance at mating with a sow on her fourth day in the forest.

After that first encounter, the team began tracking the pandas using wireless equipment.

Lu decided to dedicate her life to following the pandas. But within months of her career decision, one of her team members fell to his death off the mountain while tracking the pandas.

"I was profoundly affected by his death," Lu said. "We were young and dreamed that one day we could achieve something great. I hadn't realized life was so fragile."

"Since, then, I have poured all my passion into this career. I don't want his death to have been a waste," she said.

Forest life for Lu and Pan was difficult at first: they faced bad weather and pandas who played poor hosts.

As the study continued, the researchers gained many insights into panda society. The panda's attitude toward them also changed dramatically: while they were at first chased out, they later allowed the researchers to pet and hug them.

Years later, their findings have revealed much about pandas and their environment, at times dispelling long-standing myths about panda behavior.

One interesting discovery was that pandas are polygamous. People previously thought that a dominant male won breeding rights, but sow pandas under Lu and Pan's observations mated with four or more boars in a season.

Conservationists were especially buoyed by their study about panda fertility. While pandas have proved notoriously tough to breed in captivity, the study corroborated that pandas reproduce well in the wild.



Lu Zhi (right) and Pan Wenshi have contributed first-hand panda research through their long-term tracking project.

## Protection makes progress



Lu Zhi (left) and Pan Wenshi observe a wild panda giving birth in a cave.



Researchers have gone from threat to friend in panda society.

Lu Zhi with a newborn panda.

Photos provided by Lu Zhi

While researchers worked to protect wild pandas, the government opened the door to a new threat in the 1990s when it opened their habitat to the national timber market.

Trees were removed in logging operations and land was cleared for farming, leaving many pandas homeless and starving.

Lu and Pan wrote directly to then-President Jiang Zemin and Premier Li Peng warning that logging was about to kill the pandas.

The central government responded in 1998, when it instituted a national logging ban to slow the destruction of the panda's habitat. New nature reserves have been established helping to limit the population decline.

So far the country has established 62 nature reserves for giant pandas. They cover a

3.2-million-hectare area that is home to 70 percent of the world's 1,600 wild pandas. Another 290 pandas live in captive-breeding programs around the world.

Zhang Xiwu, director of the Wildlife Protection Division of the State Forestry Administration, said the government is planning its fourth national panda survey for next year.

China has conducted three such surveys since the middle of the 1970s. The third survey in 2003 found a total of 1,596 pandas, 1,200 of which were in Sichuan. However, climate change and earthquakes may have dramatically cut into this number.

Zhang said DNA tests will play an important role in the fourth survey, because DNA tests based on panda feces are the most accurate test method.

## New threats

Although significant achievements in conservation have been made, new economic development may be the greatest challenge yet to the panda habitat, Lu said.

Wild pandas are seriously fragmented in their habitats. Though they all live in remote forests, their remaining habitats are being fragmented by human expansion: rails, roads and settlements bisect their homes, and vast areas of forest have been cleared for agriculture and charcoal production.

Many pandas have been forced into belts of bamboo thicket smaller than 1 kilometer, according to WWF China.

"The panda likes to wander far and wide, but its habitat has been carved apart into isolated little patches. This has made migration difficult and increased the risk of dangerous inbreeding," Fan Zhiyong, species program director at the WWF Beijing office said.

Inbreeding reduces the panda's resistance to disease, lowers productivity and massacres their chances of survival.

"If the pandas cannot mate with those from other habitats, extinction may come within two to three generations," Fan said.

He also said the panda's habitat will become increasingly isolated in the next 20 years.

"We may be forced to choose between infrastructure and pandas," he said.

Lu said the best way to protect the pandas is not to build new natural reserves, but to keep the existing reserves connected. She said giving the pandas a healthy environment is more important than the expensive and notoriously unsuccessful captive-breeding programs.

The scientists' next step will be to try and reconnect fragmented habitats by planting trees, Lu said.

But that step may be impossible unless farmers and their local governments are willing to cooperate.

"The hardest thing is to change peoples' minds and behavior. It doesn't matter whether they are government, business or just everyday people," Lu said.

"In the end, farmers are worried about paying their bills and the local government only cares about lost profits and jobs. Conservation is not on their list of priorities," Lu said.

Can the panda be saved? Lu said yes.

All it would take is bamboo, peace and quiet.

"Humans have to be willing to leave some of their planet to the wild," Lu said. "A society willing to protect its environment is a sign of maturity. That shows it understands its responsibility to future generations."

"Pandas are iconic in that they represent all threatened species. Saving the panda is a test of our determination. If we can't protect the panda, then what chance do the other threatened species have?"





By Zhang Dongya

*My Joy City*, being pitched as the country's first "live-action play," made its debut at Joy City mall April 18.

"It's a drama: we have college actors, we have a script and a director and we have rehearsed. But we are staging it in a shopping mall instead of a theater," said Liu Honglei, the script writer.

Zhang Xiaoying, Joy City's director of promotions, said the play helped boost sales by 20 percent on opening day.

"The innovative promotion was a big success," she said.

### First mall drama

Joy City, a well-known hub for Xidan's youngsters and fashionistas, was bustling that Sunday.

But ads for a play on the basement level pulled many shoppers away from their usual routine.

Crowds gathered outside the Levi's Lady's shop on the second floor to watch the 15-minute scene. Some shoppers, not knowing about the play, simply followed the crowds.

The actress wore a T-shirt emblazoned with the Levi's Lady's logo and the actor carried a paper bag from BreadTalk, a Singaporean bakery with a Joy City shop.

When the scene ended, another two actors continued the play on the third floor outside G-star. Seven actors carried the action from the basement to the fifth floor and back to the basement for the finale.

The play's "tickets" had instructions for the viewers, all of which were the opposite of traditional theater requirements: turn on your cell phone and set its ring to loud, walk around the stage all you like, feel free to take pictures.

"This is about having fun. It's not supposed to be traditional theater. We want an audience, but we won't cram them into chairs," Liu, the script writer, said.

Liu cast his actors before he started writing the script. Most were students at Beijing Film Academy or The Central Academy of Drama and were younger than 23; they had no experience in commercial performance.

After studying the actors for several days, Liu wrote their roles. His play tells three couples' love stories in five scenes.

He wrote the play so that missing one or two scenes would not

# Mall's 'live-action play' may be the future



Audience appreciation may be helping *My Joy City* to start a new trend.

Photos provided by *My Joy City* troupe



The drama brought in shoppers and increased sales at several participating shops.



The performance started on the basement and climbed to the fifth floor changing sets in Joy City.

take too much away from the story. The format gave viewers time to sneak off if they found a store with something interesting.

### Stores share the stage

"We are always looking for fresh ideas for how to promote our stories. Ideas that are artistic and tasteful are the best. This time,

we offered a space to the theater troupe to help promote our cornerstone brands," said Zhang, Joy City's director of promotions.

Six shops, including G-star Raw and Lotto, participated by providing the crew with apparel and accessories. The play used their storefronts as sets, which helped lure in shoppers. The script writers did not name drop

the brands during the main dialogue, but did mention them when the scene ended.

"Product placement is common in movies and TV, and it is effective. We want to avoid anything that is obviously commercial," Liu said.

Joy City said the response was overwhelmingly positive. "Participating shops said the play was good, and that the presence of their brands and slogans helped boost their image," Zhang said. "Several other troupes have called to tell us they are interested in staging their own plays."

"The drama also helped revive traffic to some of the stores in the mall's dead ends. Some of them saw a 20 percent jump in traffic on opening day," she said.

G-star Raw's marketing manager Lu Yanjun said being the set of the play's third act did bring more shoppers to her store, but those extra bodies did not translate into sales.

"The sales were actually down from our average, but the weather was pretty bad that Sunday," Lu said. "We were worried about it turning into chaos, but the actors did very well. They had a great idea, and we would love to participate again."

### Feedback and future

But not all customers were so forgiving of the corporate sponsorship. One blogger writing under the handle *Douding*, said she felt "fooled."

"I was told I was going to see a drama, but it was just a commercial," she wrote.

But Liu defended her concept, saying, "the idea was to attract people who were already wandering in the mall to stop and watch our play. After that they could continue with their browsing."

Crowds gathered around the circled railings on all the five floors. One young shopper surnamed Yang said he followed the drama from the second floor to the end. "It was realistic and focused on current issues like the second-generation rich. I felt it had much in common with my life," he said.

Joy City said some customers mistook the first performance as a film shoot, but things improved during the repeat stagings.

"We'll add more interactive activities in the future. Shops might distribute coupons to customers and the drama troupes may place some gifts in the shops. We hope to include more contemporary topics in future plays. Not everything should be a love story," Zhang said.

Huang Weina, *My Joy City*'s director, said these "mobile dramas" may be the future. But the plays put a lot of stress on the actors to adapt to audience proximity and avoid accidents.

"We had a lot of pressure before the show. There was no telling what would happen by using the shopping mall as a stage. To get off the stage and perform amid the audience is a big challenge for young and inexperienced actors," Huang said.

Joy City said it plans to continue its cooperation by holding annual drama festivals in the mall.

The director Huang mentioned London as a successful example, which has a drama and shopping festival every October. Its actors and stage crew are trained to cope with being on the move, and their performances draw many people to the mall.

The drama continued with daily performances until its finale yesterday.





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# World's biggest battlefield

## AUTO CHINA TOP 10 Carmakers rev up to fight for China market

By Huang Daohen

It is not just the world's biggest car market: it is the biggest battleground. Auto executives from around the world agreed, as they rushed to the China auto show to figure out how, and how fast, the market is evolving.

The days when China was an easy battleground for the industry are long gone. Domestic carmakers like Chery, Geely and BYD are seeking to snatch business away from foreign competitors.



The country's biggest domestic auto brand signaled its ambition to become a global competitor by signing soccer star Lionel Messi as its international image ambassador last Friday. CFP Photo

### Brands on equal footing

At the crowded Geely pavilion of this year's Beijing auto show, car model Lillian Xie stands smiling by a Geely luxury vehicle striking her best pose.

This year's auto show is a bit different for Xie: as a professional car model who used to model for global brands, this year she is standing next to a Geely.

"It is rare that we work for domestic car companies," said Xie, 24, a veteran model of 10 years. Xie said modeling agencies usually send them to global brands' pavilions since foreign carmakers pay more.

Domestic carmakers used to rely on part-timers.

Xie earned 15,000 yuan per day at the Beijing auto show: top models usually earn 1,000 to 2,000 yuan per day. But Beijing and Shanghai's auto shows are the exception. Outside the metropolises, car models earn less than 1,000 yuan.

It's usually the madly priced foreign luxury cars and models that attract visitors. But at this year's Beijing show, visitors flocked to domestic pavilions.

And not just to ogle the sexy models.

"Visitors asked about the quality and price of cars. Most people are thinking of buying a cheap domestic car," Xie said.

On a short walk at the new China International Exhibition Center in Shunyi District, visitors can find eye-catching new vehicles at the pavilions of domestic brands.

Domestic carmakers have finally brought their designs up to global standards. Their old, awkward-looking vehicles are largely absent from this auto show.

### Home brands shine

At this exhibition, new automakers seemed determined to snatch market share both at home and abroad.

Both of the country's biggest domestic brands, Chery and Geely, showed their ambition.

Chery announced that it signed Argentine soccer star Lionel Messi for its international campaign. The company exports its vehicles to 70 developing countries in Asia, the Middle East and Latin America and hopes to double its exports to 100,000 this year.

Volvo-buyer Geely displayed six new-energy vehicles. Company president Li Shufu said it plans to sell some of its new vehicles abroad.

Geely was unknown abroad before it agreed in March to buy Volvo from Ford for 12.2 billion yuan. Li said at the press conference that he hopes to raise Geely sales to 2 million by 2015.

Geely displayed 55 vehicles at the auto show, 11 of which were new. These included a plug-in, rechargeable electric car and five other new-energy cars.

"We sell cars to the people who want them," the company's slogan says.

By contrast, BYD appeared conservative with only one car in each segment. The Buffett-backed company announced plans to export electric cars to the US, saying it wants to start sales on the West Coast this year.

Other homegrown auto brands such as those by SAIC Motor, Great Wall Motor, Dongfeng Motor and Changan Auto also drew much attention at the exhibition with their alternative-energy cars on display.

**"Western carmakers should take note that their Chinese partners are learning fast and their products are not the jokes they once were."**

Last year, sales of domestic brand passenger vehicles hit 4.6 million units, over 44 percent of total sales in passenger cars. In the first quarter this year, domestic brand passenger vehicles' sales exceeded 1.7 million units, 49 percent of the country's passenger car market.

But analysts are more conservative about domestic carmakers' ambitions. "Though domestic carmakers may have the world's largest market to back them up, it's still a long drive before they can fight for global leadership," said Wen Yijun, senior industrial analyst with the Oriental Securities.

Wen said a carmaker cannot succeed globally until it dominates its home market.

When Toyota overtook General Motors as the world's best-seller, half of its sales came from the Japanese market.

By contrast, China has no dominant producer, Wen said. "A shortage of original models and a lack of overseas acquisition targets are also hurdles domestic car-

makers will face."

### Growing slowly

Global automakers, including GM, Daimler and Volkswagen, are introducing 14 vehicles at the exhibition.

GM said its China sales jumped 68 percent in March over last year. It expects to sell 2 million cars this year.

"But last year was extraordinary. We probably won't see that kind of growth again in the next 10 years," Wen said.

China overtook the US as the world's largest auto market last year. But the crowded industry shows no signs of slowing down, Wen said.

"It is true that it will be a while before domestic carmakers can catch up to auto giants like Volkswagen, Toyota or GM, but they are quickly becoming a force to contend with, especially at home," Wen said.

Domestic companies like Chery now rely on their own technology to grab more of the market.

While the market outlook is positive, Wen said the industry is over-capacity.

Statistics from the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers show that stockpiles of passenger vehicles increased by 30,000 last month.

"Some dealers felt the pinch of increasing stockpiles, as auto makers set higher targets for production," Wen said.

Wen said this year's Beijing auto show revealed a domestic industry growing in confidence.

"Western carmakers should take note that their Chinese partners are learning fast and their products are not the jokes they once were," Wen said.

## F1's future sure or shaky?

By Huang Daohen

Formula One (F1) will return next year and its China race will continue, said Bernie Ecclestone when the Shanghai event ended April 18.

The F1 supremo insisted the Chinese stop has a bright future, despite its failure to attract a local audience.

Ecclestone told a recent press conference that a rolling contract is already in place.

But his optimism was not without its skeptics. The Shanghai track's original deal expired this year and its continued loss caused speculation that the race should not be renewed.

"Why is F1 coming to China? As far as I know, F1 racers don't like the Chinese Grand Prix," said Bao Banghui, a long-time F1 fan and an analyst for a Shanghai auto magazine. Bao cited a media estimate that the city incurs 5 billion yuan in losses by hosting the event.

Bao who went to the event the last five years, said F1 stalled in China. "To most people, F1 is a very new sport. People were only enthusiastic at first because it was a new experience," he said.

Bao said China has a relatively small group of die-hard fans who understand and enjoy the sport.

"When it comes to tennis, participation is easy. Just grab a racket, go to a tennis court, find a coach and start playing. But auto racing is another story. Most people cannot afford a specially designed car," he said.

"If you can't participate in a sport, you won't be passionate about it," Bao said.

However, Bao said his home city has benefited from the race. "Since F1 is one of the top sporting events in the world, having it here is good for the city."

Yang Yibin, marketing director of Shanghai F1's managing body, echoes that theory, and said he is not worried about F1's future.

But criteria to define F1 as a "success" in China remain elusive. Yang said a full audience is not enough.

"F1 comes from the West, and is a big part of the Western culture. To most folks here, it still seems distant," Yang said. "To be frank, we haven't turned a profit since we hosted the F1 Chinese Grand Prix in 2004."

"F1, as a global showcasing stage, should penetrate popular culture. We need to focus on future generations," he said.

Yang said next year, there will be special viewing areas for students. "If they can't afford the tickets, we'll pay for them. We need to cultivate their interest," he said.



# Dream of world-class universities

By Li Zhixin

"China doesn't have any world-class universities, and its most prestigious ones have had to rely on money," Xu Zhihong, a former president of Peking University and a member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, said at a forum last week.

Xu said there are three benchmarks to achieving first-class university status: first, the university must have internationally renowned professors doing important research; second, it must have made an accomplishment with a profound impact on civilization and social development; third, it must have graduates who have made significant contributions to society.

Based on these standards, Xu said no university in China qualifies despite the fact that the president of Moscow University has called Peking University a world-class university.

On May 4, 1998, the 100th founding anniversary of Peking University, the government earmarked 30 billion yuan to fund the development of nine world-class universities – a number that later increased to 30.

Xu said the project was an attempt to create instantly what time take to cultivate.



Most Chinese students consider Peking University and Tsinghua as world-class universities.

CFP Photo

## Comment

### Internationalize population

Elite universities should have a high concentration of talented teachers and students, a significant budget and strategic vision and leadership. I think China's top two universities – Tsinghua and Peking University – are up to scratch. The only thing they need to improve on is having a more international population.

In most cases, world-class universities take a good number of students and faculty from overseas. This enables them to attract the most talented people, no matter where they come from,

and open themselves to new ideas and approaches. For Cambridge in Britain and Harvard in the US, around 18 percent of their students and a third of their faculty are from other countries – unlike Chinese universities.

– Sheena Chestnut, student at Peking University

### Find unique soul

Premier Wen Jiabao once said that a good university should have a unique soul, which is independent thinking and freedom of expression. There is no doubt that China's higher education has witnessed astronom-

ical growth in the past decade in terms of facilities, student enrollment and research productivity. But China's universities must lack a "unique soul," otherwise Premier Wen would not have said so.

– Duan Qigang, publishing house editor

### Bureaucracy a hindrance

Although Chinese universities can compete with their Western counterparts in infrastructure, hardware and software, their bureaucracy hinders them from becoming world-class. And universities that rely on their

undergraduates to enter their postgraduate programs, or hire their graduates as teachers, will not likely be at the forefront of intellectual development.

– Huan Huan, teacher at Communication University of China

### Reaching the top only a question of time

The quality of elite Chinese universities is pretty much on par with those of other countries. It's a globalized world, so many – if not most – Chinese professors have received degrees abroad, bringing back foreign ideas and

educational philosophies.

Compared to world-class universities like Harvard, Yale, Oxford and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Chinese universities still have a way to go. But with increased government funding, focus on education and the liberal arts and promotion of interaction among different disciplines, I think it is only a question of time before at least one of China's universities will be as good as the aforementioned universities.

– Jonas Bauge, doctoral candidate at Tsinghua University

# Marrying into wealth deemed shortcut to success

By Zhao Hongyi

"Red Book on the Values of University Girls in Guangzhou," a survey recently conducted by the All-China Women's Federation in Guangdong, revealed that 59.2 percent of female university students in the province wished to marry into "the second generation of money."

Some 30 percent of respon-

dents in a similar online nationwide survey expressed the same sentiments. It also showed the prevailing attitude among young women: "to marry well is better than to work hard" as it can be a shortcut to success.

But 68 percent of male university students gave the idea a thumbs-down.

The "second generation of money" refers to the children of people who got rich after economic reforms in the 1980s. Many of these young men and women lead flashy lifestyles and are not familiar with the hardships that go into building a fortune and so have earned negative images.

Meanwhile, 57.6 percent of

respondents to the Guangdong survey said they preferred men with potential. The women said they did not care if the men did not have money; the crucial things are that he should be smart, have long-term plans for success and treat a woman well.

On the question of faithfulness, 20 percent of the women said they

could tolerate the occasional infidelity, while 90 percent said they could not see themselves being faithful to only one person.

The survey interviewed 992 university men and women between January and March to look into the values of college women, including their take on interpersonal relationships.

## Comment

### Money closely related to love

I find it interesting that many university men disagree with the women's idea of marrying into the second generation of money. Money is closely related to love since most women like to be taken care of. But choosing a man for his potential is also dangerous as most women cannot determine who truly has potential.

– Julien Gaudfroy,

### Frenchman living in Beijing Chinese society going in wrong direction

What's the problem with the women surveyed? With Chinese society today? It shows society is increasingly going in the wrong direction.

In India, young people with education can easily find jobs in multinational companies. Women with education want to

start their own businesses and society looks down upon those who marry to obtain financial security, rather than through hard work. The most important thing here is self-confidence.

– Quanqiu Boke, netizen living in India

### Key is to becoming rich

We should not blame the university women and should instead show our sympathy to men from

poor families; the women only expressed survival instincts. The only thing we can do is to work hard to get what we want – including our own women.

– Golden Mountain, netizen

### All women want the same thing

Everywhere in the world, women like men with money. It's pretty obvious! But the survey shows that compared

with their foreign counterparts, many women in Chinese universities are unsophisticated, because they don't know that if you want to marry a rich man, you need to perfect yourself first! It's like producing and selling goods, you need to make your goods eye-catching before demanding this or that.

– Risteard Deorian, Irishman living in Beijing



Gary Mounfield

Photo by Song Nannan

# Brit-pop legend hits Beijing stage

By Wang Yu

British bassist Gary Mounfield, considered a demigod by rock fans, hit the Beijing stage April 17 as part of his concert tour with Manchester band Purescence. Though the concert venue was changed at the last minute from MAO Livehouse to a club in Wangjing, a big crowd came to see the former member of legendary rock group The Stone Roses.

Mounfield played DJ at the after party with fans cheering him on. "I've been told by some Chinese friends in the UK that I should go to China to see what's going on here. I've always loved traveling to Asia because the scene here is different. However, music fans here are the same as those in Manchester," he said.

The musician was born in 1962 in Crumpsall, a suburban part of Manchester. In college, he declared that he wanted to become a chef although he was already big on music, having picked up his first Rickenbacker a few years earlier and teaching himself how to play bass guitar.

Besides being home to a soccer club, Manchester is home to a big scene for African music like funk and soul, which influenced Mounfield's life and musical style. In 1987, he joined

The Stone Roses, the band credited for ushering in the Brit-pop era.

"It meant everything to me. Your life changes with the band. We were confident of what we were doing. We believed that we were going to be a great group from the very beginning, even when we played in front of only 20 people," Mounfield said.

The Stone Roses fused the beautiful links that Caucasian guitarists were known for with a funk rhythm that rock bands then seldom used. This became a sensation and led British rock to a new peak. The group produced two albums before it split in 1996. Music critics believe that without the Roses, there wouldn't have been big names like Oasis, Suede and Blur.

Even the members of Purescence decided to form the band after watching a Roses show in 1991. "Everybody has his influence. When we first started the Roses, we wanted to be The Birds. Oasis wanted to be the Roses during their early years... I've watched Purescence grow. Now I feel like a proud father of the band," Mounfield said.

After the Roses, Mounfield joined the Scottish band Primal Scream, founded in 1982 and then known for its dance rhythms, rock guitars and

electric lines. Kasabian, a top British band that is said to be the successor of Oasis which disbanded last year, was criticized for copying too much from Primal Scream.

But Mounfield only has good things to say about Kasabian. "I've been good friends with Kasabian and they really care about music and love what they do. You know there are many musicians in the UK who only care about money now. I love those who have a good attitude toward music," he said.

Later this year, Primal Scream will go on the road again for the 20th anniversary of *Screamadelica*, a landmark album in British music history that the band made in 1991. The group also hopes to release a new record next year, Mounfield said.

But what fans around the world are eager to see is a reunion of The Stone Roses; in the past year, once heavyweights like Blur and Suede have announced their impending return. Mounfield does not see the same for the Roses, since all its four members have created good solo careers, especially lead singer Ian Brown who has released six successful albums.

"Maybe it's a good thing to leave it to history." And that's the final word on the matter from Mounfield.

## Two expats become Beijing's pioneer 'model workers'



Luc Picard

By Zhao Hongyi

Luc Picard and Aki Kishi this year became the first foreigners ever to be named "model worker," by the Beijing government – a title that calls for emulation from the capital's 16 million residents.

Picard, a Frenchman, and Aki, a Japanese, were selected from the nearly 100,000 expats working and living in Beijing and received their certificate

and trophy at a ceremony for this year's 1,141 awardees on April 20.

Picard, 73, is a doctor at the Xuanwu Hospital of the Capital Medical University and is an expert in interventional neuroradiology. Besides conducting complex surgeries, he has regularly given lectures and facilitated academic exchanges since the '70s.

Capital Medical University's training center that enables simulations of neuroradiological operations was his brainchild. The center plays a critical role in training first-class doctors on the mainland. Last year, he introduced to the city General Electric's global medical equipment research center.

The country's poor are

also close to his heart. Last year, he visited the school for minority orphans in Lijiang, Yunnan Province, and brought donations several times.

Aki, on the other hand, is a senior consultant at Beijing Tede Pharmaceutical.

The 55-year-old first came to China on a business trip for the pharmaceutical company in 1994. In 2005, he decided to make Beijing his home despite the fact that he would get a 60 percent pay cut. "I like China and find life here colorful and meaningful. That's why I've spent the last 10 years of my career in the country," he said.

Aki has since helped his company develop a drug delivery system that has alleviated the suffer-

ing of millions who have thrombus, angiosclerosis, diabetes and gangrenosis. He said the model worker award has convinced him that "it was the right decision to work in China."

Before Labor Day every five years, the All-China Federation of Trade Unions recognizes "model workers" from all over the country. Guangdong Province selected the country's first foreign awardee in 2003, and soon more provinces followed, including Fujian, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Sichuan and Zhejiang. Beijing began its evaluation of candidates last month.

"To select expatriates as model workers shows the openness of the capital," said Huo Lianming, vice president of the



Aki Kishi

Beijing Municipal Federation of Trade Unions. "As an international city, we need to attract talents from all over the world and model workers are excellent representatives."

The Chinese media has welcomed the selection of foreign model workers, and many Chinese people believe they can learn from their self-discipline and hard work.



"Model workers" attend the awarding ceremony held in Beijing April 20.

Photo by Zhao Hongyi



# European Commission head to unveil EU pavilion

By Han Manman

The president of the European Commission will inaugurate the European Union pavilion at the Shanghai Expo tomorrow on his first China visit since assuming his second term this year.

President Jose Manuel Barroso arrived in Beijing yesterday with a top-level delegation, including the commission's vice president and high representative for foreign affairs, Catherine Ashton.

The main focus of the visit will be to develop an agenda for bilateral relations under the new Lisbon Treaty framework.

"This will open up many opportunities to increase our cooperation with China across the board, not least in addressing global challenges," Barroso told Xinhua News Agency, citing the challenges of climate change, environmental protection, non-proliferation of nuclear weapons,

energy security and poverty alleviation in Africa.

"We will seize this opportunity to generate momentum in our 35-year relationship and develop a far-reaching agenda for the next five years," he said. The European Commission is the executive body of the European Union (EU) and is elected for five-year terms.

After meeting Chinese leaders in Beijing, where they will open a Europe-China Clean Energy Center today to strengthen research and cooperation in clean and renewable energy, the EU delegation will proceed to Shanghai where Barroso will inaugurate the Belgium-EU pavilion.

The 1,000-square-meter pavilion, the EU's first exhibition in a World Expo, will showcase examples of "how European technology and innovation help to create a better life for European citizens in terms of ... environmentalism,

urban solutions, communications and integration of old and new architecture," the commission said in a statement.

Barroso said he looks forward "to the many opportunities that this expo will offer for the Chinese people to learn more about Europe and to have direct contact with us, either at our place or at the pavilions of our 27 member states."

EU relations with China were established in 1975 and are governed by the 1985 EU-China Trade and Cooperation Agreement. Negotiations began three years ago to upgrade the relationship to a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement.

The main policy objectives of the EU regarding China include broadening and deepening dialogue with the country on common global challenges and supporting China's transition to becoming an open society based on rule of law and respect for human rights.

## UNICEF says children should be Yushu's priority



UNICEF appeal for more support to rebuild schools in Yushu.

By Huang Daoheng

Children should be the priority of rehabilitation efforts in quake-hit areas of Qinghai Province, a UN agency said in a recent report, appealing for more support to rebuild schools in the earthquake zone.

The magnitude-7.1 tremor that shook Qinghai's Yushu county April 14 took a heavy toll on schools, said the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Yushu, a large but sparsely populated area, has a total of 23,197 students, about half of them boarding students from surrounding counties.

"The earthquake struck at around 8 am when most students were already in school," said Vivian Siu, a UNICEF volunteer in Yushu. She said students were horrified when the ground shook and headed for the playground.

One of the students, Sangqiyixi, a 13-year-old boy from Yushu No. 2 Ethnic High School, broke a classroom window to escape. "The dust was blowing everywhere and I could not even see the road," he said, adding that some of his classmates failed to get away before the school collapsed.

According to local government data, about 80 per-

cent of primary schools and half of secondary schools were severely damaged.

Despite the devastation, Siu said many schools were working quickly to resume classes. At some elementary schools, volunteers like Siu have helped clear away the rubble to create space for makeshift classrooms, including a 72-square-meter tent set up by UNICEF and local authorities.

"We are especially worried about the immediate danger of cold weather to children as many sleep in the open where the temperatures near sub-zero," Yin Yin Nwe, UNICEF representative in China, said. "We are concerned about the impact on children and their families."

The UN agency said it will send to Yushu 5,000 sets of warm children's clothing, 150 school tents and 2,000 blankets. It is also preparing to supply 2,000 children's winter boots, 5,000 student kits and shoulder bags, 500 blackboards, ambulances, generators and medical equipment.

The immediate return of children to school following the disaster is an important step in helping them overcome psychosocial stress, Nwe said.



Turkish children celebrated their National Sovereignty and Children's Day with Chinese children at the Turkish Embassy. Photos by Li Zhixin

## Embassy celebrates Turkish Children's day with the disadvantaged

By Li Zhixin

The Turkish Embassy hosted a party for disadvantaged children last Saturday in commemoration of Turkey's National Sovereignty and Children's Day.

Some 50 children from Sun Village, a foster home and school for children whose parents are in prison, attended the barbecue party on the embassy grounds that included a magic show,

dancing and games with Turkish children.

"Turkish children are very beautiful and passionate. I hope Turkish children can also visit our village each year to celebrate Children's Day with us," Tu Hui, a 9-year-old girl, said, referring to Sun Village located in Shunyi District.

"I love to play with them. So does my little sister Ata, who hugged almost all the Chinese

kids," said Baris Celik, a 4-year-old boy, who grabbed guests' attention by introducing himself to the Sun Village children with, "nice to meet you, my Chinese name is He Ping, because my father taught me to love peace."

Each child from the foster home - most between the ages of 4 and 10 - received summer shoes from embassy officials, and they in turn gave the embassy self-

made embroideries depicting natural landscapes.

The embassy hopes to make the Children's Day party an annual activity and to invite more young Chinese guests. "Last year, we visited Sun Village where the optimistic and friendly children impressed us deeply, so we've been hoping to bring them to take part in more activities outside the vil-

lage," Murat Salim Esenli, the Turkish ambassador, said. "We thought Children's Day would be a good occasion."

"We cherish the friendship between the two nations and we also know the seeds of friendship should be planted in the hearts of children. We hope they can know each other better and cultivate friendship by playing with each other," Esenli said.

# Photo festival held for first time outside France



Caochangdi hosts the first Les Rencontres d'Arles photography festival outside France through June 30.

Photo provided by Chambers Fine Art Gallery

By Chu Meng

A portion of Les Rencontres d'Arles photography festival is being held outside France for the first time in its four-decade history. The honor of being its first overseas host goes to Caochangdi, the Beijing art village that festival organizers see eventually becoming an international art hub.

Les Rencontres, which has helped define the best and brightest figures in photography since 1969, has brought to Caochangdi "Photo Spring," a series of photography exhibitions, workshops and slide presentations featuring top international works. It also

includes forums, concerts and film screenings.

"As a grassroots art space, we are in bad need of fresh foreign-art influences to cultivate young Chinese artists," says Li Li, public relations director of Three Shadows Photography Art Center, co-organizer of Les Rencontres, along with Thinking Hands Culture Center in 798 Art District.

"We will further discuss with foreign counterparts about how an art zone can grow in a healthier and more harmonious way, and learn how to sustainably manage an art community," Liu Hongli, a member of the Caochangdi Art

Zone Committee, says.

Francois Hébel, director of Les Rencontres, sees in Caochangdi the Arles of 40 years ago. "Caochangdi was born on the outskirts of Beijing in 2000 and has since flourished into a vibrant artist's hub with numerous galleries, art institutions and artist studios. It is exactly the same as how the art county of Arles was founded 40 years ago. Later on, many world-famous photographers grew out of Arles. I see a promising future for young Chinese artists here," Hébel says.

Through major Chinese art events like the Pingyao photog-

raphy festival in 2000 and the Dashanzi Art Festival in 2003, Hébel says he has "witnessed a marked development in Chinese art photography." Photo Spring, going on through June 30, is the first in three photography events planned by French and Chinese organizers.

Caochangdi, one of the city's contemporary art hubs, differs from the more popular 798 Art District in that it is a suburban village that has attracted artists as opposed to a designated art district. It is also less commercialized, thus rent is more affordable to new or young artists.

## NGOs appeal for quake relief items

By Wang Yu

Expats as well as locals have been involved in the effort to collect relief items for the victims of the magnitude-7.1 earthquake that struck Yushu, Qinghai Province, April 14.

Leslie Simpson, owner of the charity store Roundabout in Shunyi District, is working with Yushu Earthquake Response Organization (YERO), a group of grassroots NGOs, to collect relief items like blankets, duvets, sleeping bags and thermal underwear.

"Our appeal has been heard, but we would love to receive a lot, lot more. Our store will be donating all its income from now until the end of the month. First, we will take care of the transport costs, and then if we have spare money, we will purchase more essentials or donate the money directly to YERO," Simpson said.

She said books and toys that Roundabout can sell are also welcome. People can also send donations to the shop's drop-off point in Dongzhimen.

YERO is composed of six NGOs that banded after the quake: Snowland Service Group, Tsongkha Charitable Association,

Sanchuan Development Association, Shem Women's Group, Qinghai Tibet Research Center and Friends of Rural Community Development. The group is supported by foreign aid by the Tibet Village Project, Columbia, Trace, Mercy Corps and Bridge.

The NGO coalition's first shipment of relief items has already reached Yushu: the 30 tons of goods included rice, noodles, generators, water filtration systems, a gas tank and water bottles. Distribution will be supervised by Snowland Service Group, which has set up a post at the Mani Wall just outside Yushu since the situation at the quake epicenter has become tense.

YERO coalition spent 120,000 yuan to move the first shipment and it is looking for people who can sponsor trucks for upcoming shipments. To rent each truck costs 4,000 yuan, and donations toward this can be given to Roundabout.

So far, YERO has received cash donations of \$13,000 (88,700 yuan) from the NGO Machik and another \$15,000 from Columbia. Donors can send money via PayPal on YERO's website, yushu.earthquakeresponse.org.

"We're aware that there have



Relief items distributed in Yushu.

CFP Photo

been many natural disasters around us lately and that sometimes we can get a little exhausted of being constantly asked to give, so it is especially wonderful to see the community around us pulling together to help 'our' country," Simpson said.

### Drop off points

#### Downtown

Where: Room 9B, Oriental Kenzo, Tower D, 48 Dongzhimen

Wai Dajie, Dongcheng District  
Open: Monday – Friday, 9 am – 6 pm

Tel: 8447 7496

#### Shunyi

Where: Roundabout, Kaifa Jie (near Mrs. Shanne's Bagels), Xi Baixinzhuang, Houshayu, Shunyi

Tel: 1371877761

Open: Monday – Saturday, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm

## Event

### Qinhuangdao's sailing season begins

The Beijing Sailing Center (BSC), located in Qinhuangdao beach resort, starts its 2010 sailing season this weekend. BSC is one of the country's top sailing schools, with a team of instructors certified by the UK's Royal Yachting Association. Member benefits include free use of boats, anchoring of a boat at the center, free monthly races and discounts on sailing equipment and courses.

Where: Beijing Sailing Center, 22 Wenti Lu, Harbor District, Qinhuangdao, Hebei Province

When: May 1-3

Tel: 15001189580

Cost: Depends on course

### Photography workshop

Peter Carney, an award-winning British photographer who has been based in Asia for five years, will discuss the fundamentals of photography and help participants find their own shooting style. The day-long workshop will include a shooting session in the surrounding hutong and historic areas and an editing lesson.

Where: Culture Yard, 10 Shique Hutong, Beixinqiao Lu, Dongcheng District

When: May 1-29, daily, 10 am – 6 pm

Tel: 8404 4166

Cost: 500 yuan

### Workshop on electronic music and digital art

The INTRO 2010 Workshop Series is designed to help new DJs and VJs enhance their know-how of digital music and visual art. This year, lectures and demonstrations will be given by music event organizer Acupuncture Records and selected local artists.

Where: Lantern, B1, 3-3 Mall, 19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District

When: May 2, 4-6 pm

Tel: 13501348785

Cost: Free

### Laughter workshop

A researcher on the effects of laughter, William Fry Jr. found that one minute of belly laughing was equivalent to 10 minutes of rowing exercises and that laughter can be beneficial to people battling diabetes, heart disease, depression, stress, pain and excess weight. The workshop, led by "laughing yoga" teacher Bernadette McGree, is designed to elicit laughter from participants – even if they have to pretend at first.

Where: Fine Yoga, 16/F Tower 2, Blue Castle International Center, 3 Xidawang Lu, Chaoyang District

When: May 2, 6:30-8 pm

Tel: 13911767521

Cost: Free

(By Liang Meilan)



# Chaoyang sports bureau frees use of school facilities for public

By Zhao Hongyi

The Sports Bureau of Chaoyang District is asking all primary and middle schools in the district to allow the public free use of its sporting facilities on evenings, weekends and school holidays to boost sports activity among residents.

"Some of them will open to the public for free starting this month. The others promised to do the same from the beginning of June," Xie Wenwen, the bureau's media officer, said. Xie said the bureau is particularly interested in opening up soccer fields, basketball, volleyball and badminton courts, swimming pools and tracks.

The bureau's move is in line with the Beijing government's intensified campaign to promote sports. The municipal government has promised to allocate 5 million yuan a year from Sports Lottery earnings to schools that allow the public free use of their facilities.

According to the bureau, there are 214 primary and middle schools in Chaoyang District, 83 of which have the standard sporting facilities. Fifty-six opened their facilities to the public starting in February but have charged users an hourly or daily rate. Despite this, demand is still strong and players sometimes need to book for a slot weeks ahead.

To convince the schools to allow the public free use of their facilities, the bureau offered annual subsidies of 30,000 to 50,000 yuan per school. The schools however say the amount is far from enough. They say they need millions of yuan to maintain their facilities and upgrade them every two to three years.

"If we provide the facilities free of charge, we'll need to do maintenance work more frequently, which will cost more,"



Schools have spacious playgrounds for neighbors who like to go jogging at night. CFP Photo

## Schools offering free use of sporting facilities

### Baijialou Primary School

Where: Sanlitun Nan Lu, Chaoyang District

Facilities: Running track

Tel: 6594 6046

### Shibailidian Primary School

Where: 885 Shibali Village, Shibali Town, Chaoyang District

Facilities: Running track, gym

Tel: 6747 2730, 13681585775

### Wangjing Shiyan Primary School

Where: 313 Tower, Block 3, Wangjing Xi, Chaoyang District

Facilities: Badminton court, running track, soccer field

Tel: 6475 9571, 6475 9576

### Middle School of Beijing University of Technology

Where: 1 Cuiyangliu Zhong Jie, Shuangjing, Chaoyang District

Facilities: Badminton court, gym, running track

Tel: 6778 1018

said a teacher from No. 80 Middle School surnamed Jiang.

Four schools will be joining the sports bureau's program this month: Baijialou Primary School, Shibailidian Primary School, Wangjing Shiyan Primary School and the Affiliated Middle School of Beijing University of Technology.

The country's rigid sports program is credited for producing world champions, but interest in sports as a profession has waned in the face of China's economic boom. Children would rather become entrepreneurs or employees of multinationals than maintain a rigid training schedule.

## Guidebook for Expo visitors released

By Chu Meng

To protect the rights of Shanghai Expo visitors and ensure their safety, Expo organizers released a visitor guidebook last week.

The guidebook, *Terms and Conditions for Visitors to World Expo 2010 Shanghai*, includes basic information like the Expo's operating hours: 15 hours a day, from 9 am to midnight, with last admission at 9 pm.

It also says the Expo ticket guarantees the holder free entrance to any pavilion or performance within one entrance to the Expo site. But in order to control the number of people in each pavilion and shorten queuing time for popular performances, reservations are strongly recommended.

"That means besides queuing to visit, visitors can also choose reserve-to-visit service to sign up for the pavilions and performances they want to see the most and then follow an optimum route and timetable the reservation machine arranged for them," said Huang Jianzhi, deputy director general of the Bureau of Shanghai World Expo Coordination, the Expo organizer.

Pavilions can be roughly divided into three kinds: the Chinese Pavilion, the theme pavilions and the country pavilions, he said. Each ticket offers a visitor rights to register for the Chinese pavilion, one of the theme pavilions as well as five foreign pavilions and performances at one time. When using up the reservation quota, visitors have to queue for other pavilions and performances.

"More than 170 reservation machines will be installed at the Expo entrance and



The Shanghai Expo expects to attract at least 400,000 visitors everyday. CFP Photo

the entrances of more than 20 pavilions. Volunteers will help visitors to register," Huang said.

The Chinese pavilion is expected to be one of the most crowded throughout the six-month exposition, he said.

The guidebook emphasizes security arrangements. It says motorcycles, skateboards, in-line skates as well as flammable items like lighters will not be allowed into the Expo site. Water and other beverages, walkie-talkies, remote-controlled toys, banners and pets are also prohibited. Since cigarettes are also banned, designated smoking areas will be set up around the Expo site, with complimentary lighters.

Medication, infant formula and wheel-

chairs will be allowed after passing security checks.

In case of an emergency, Huang said officials may restrict visitor entry. "In case of an epidemic, adverse weather, high visitor density, technical problems or any other special condition, organizers and participants may adopt temporary measures to restrict the entry of visitors into the Expo site, pavilions or event venues, or to evacuate visitors," he said.

The guidebook is especially useful to help visitors navigate the Expo's five zones and 154 pavilions, scattered in an area of 5.3 square kilometer or the size of 742 standard soccer fields. The Expo will run from May 1 through October 30.

## ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: [weiyang@ynet.com](mailto:weiyang@ynet.com)

**I'm throwing a housewarming party this weekend and want to serve quality Western desserts. Do you know any bakery that does deliveries?**

There is a new place in town called The Lollipop Bakery, run by a Londoner, which sells tasty, luxurious cupcakes. The shop does deliveries for a minimum order of a dozen cupcakes, but you still need to add a delivery fee of 20 yuan. You can call the bakery at email [cupcakes@lollipopbakery.cn](mailto:cupcakes@lollipopbakery.cn).

**I often shoot 35mm black-and-white film and am looking for somewhere that will push process it during development. So far, I've only found shops that develop pushed color film.**

There are actually a number of shops that develop 35mm black-and-white pushed film, but only a few do the job according to professional standards. One of these is Wanda, located on 20 Meishuguan Dong Jie (east of the National Art Museum), Dongcheng District.

**Could you recommend a market that sells spare car parts?**

The most well-known and the one we would recommend is the Automobile Parts Market (69 Nansihuan Dong Lu, Chaoyang District), which sells parts for both Chinese-made and imported cars. For more information, call 5110 2222 or visit its website [cheqp.chinaec.net](http://cheqp.chinaec.net).

(By Liang Meilan)

By He Jianwei

One would be hard-pressed to spot a Chinese art house movie in China. Despite a legion of foreign critics singing their praise, only an international award can bring one to a Chinese theater – sometimes.

Cinema is driven by box office returns, and the rush to pack CG-laden action romps into the theaters leaves art house movies on the cutting room floor.

But some people in the film industry are noticing a contradiction: art house films have a nearly unlimited audience yet they are routinely dropped from billing to make room for commercial films.

**O**n April 2, *Lan*, a semi-autobiographical movie directed by actress Jiang Wenli, opened in mainland cinemas. It told the heart-warming story of a young girl and her grandfather.

Despite having won an Audience Award at last year's Pusan International Film Festival in South Korea, poor box office returns brought a swift end to its screening.

But that brief commercial run was a stroke of luck. Domestic screens are notorious for shutting out art house films in favor of cash cows.

It's a dubious choice to be sure, given the names of famed directors Zhang Yimou and Chen Kaige were built in the art house.

Zhang's *Red Sorghum* in 1987 and Chen's debut film *Yellow Earth* in 1984 won many awards and opened a new era for Chinese filmmaking.

The young generation seemed to be following a new path, but something happened.

In 2002, Zhang made an about-face to film the special effect-laden epic *Hero* and Chen's *The Promise* followed that trend in 2005.

But it was an important year for young directors.

Renowned photographer Gu Changwei's directorial debut *Peacock* took the Silver Bear at the 55th Berlin International Film Festival and actress Xu Jinglei's

second directorial film *Letter from an Unknown Woman* got the Silver Shell for best director at the 52nd San Sebastian International Film Festival. Wang Xiaoshuai's *Shanghai Dreams* grabbed a Jury Prize at Cannes later that year.

But domestic box office returns for those films fell short of expectations. *Peacock* earned 5 million yuan and *Shanghai Dreams* earned only 3 million yuan. *Letter from an Unknown Woman* was the only film to reach 10 million yuan.

Also started in 2005 was the ScreenOut Film Exhibition, China's first and only campaign to introduce art films into cinemas. The Guangzhou-based expo presents many international award-winning art house films each year.

This April 11, it came to Beijing for the first time. For the last three weeks it featured nine films at the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA) – seven old films played on a previous campaign and two new one including Jiang's *Lan*.

"We realized that art house films are not only recognized by foreign judges but also by domestic viewers after previous shows," said Xie Meng, project manager of UCCA and an organizer of ScreenOut.

"Someone in the audience asked one of our directors why these great movies were never in the theaters. Another told the directors he didn't know

# Trap



**ScreenOut Film Exhibition is China's first and only campaign to introduce art films into cinemas. The Guangzhou-based expo presents many international award-winning art house films each year.**



1.Hou Hsiao-Hsien in Broadway Cinematheque; 2.Italian film festival in Broadway Cinematheque; 3-5.Lan, a semi-



Opened at the end of 2009, the Broadway Cinematheque is the first art house cinema on the mainland.

Photos provided by Broadway Cinematheque



# opped

## Viewers yearn for what cinema won't show



Zhao Ye's 2008 film *Jiahou* tells the story of a steam-train driver and his apprentice in a coal mine in Inner Mongolia.

Photos provided by UCCA



autobiographical movie directed by actress Jiang Wenli, tells the heart-warming story of a young girl and her grandfather.

**Most of the films are small-budget real-life dramas focused on social problems and revealing people's attitudes toward rapid economic development.**



anyone was still making films like these."

"They were commenting on Zhao Ye's 2008 film *Jiahou*, a Mongolian word meaning "ocean-like lake." The film tells the story of a steam-train driver and his apprentice in a coal mine in Manzhouli, Inner Mongolia.

Zhao's cinematic vision monumentalizes the smoke, steam and grit that form the existential texture of lives, celebrating and mourning the passing of time and the fragility of friendship.

Urged by the positive response, Zhao announced he would show the film to students in colleges for free.

"Art house movies help people open their eyes to film. The more films people see, the more they will enjoy them," Xie said. "Nothing is impossible in art house. While many directors were chasing big budgets, Liu Jiajin made two films spending only the cost of equipment."

Most of the films are small-budget real-life dramas focused on social problems and revealing people's attitudes toward rapid economic development.

Another new movie in the lineup was Liu Jie's *Judge*, a story set in 1997 in a small city of north China. On January 1, 2007, the Supreme Court assumed the right to review death penalties. The news reminded the director of the story of a young guy sentenced to death for stealing two cars 10

years ago.

"Will we be shocked at what crimes are punished with death today when we look back 10 years from now? I hope my film gets people thinking and discussing the philosophy of life and death," the director said.

Unlike big budget productions, art house films draw foreign distributors.

"Liu Jie's 2006 film *Courthouse on Horseback* was one of top 10 bestsellers in France and played in cinemas for almost a year," said Wu Jing, market manager of Broadway Cinematheque.

Opened at the end of 2009, the Broadway Cinematheque is the first art house cinema on the mainland. The cinema is run by Hong Kong Broadway Cinematheque and is part of the EDKO films management brand.

Besides commercial films, Broadway aims to screen diverse art films that are never available at mainland cinemas. It has three screens and 401 seats, and includes both film and digital screening facilities.

The average attendance rate is lower than that seen at commercial films and each movie is shown for one month or longer. "Like European theaters, we screen our films for several months or even a year," she said.

Wu said Beijingers are thirsty for film. Broadway already has 1,400 local members.

"It may look like a small number given we have 15,000 members in Hong Kong, but that member base was built up over 10 years: Beijing's happened in only five months," Wu said.

Broadway introduces one or two new directors each month. Its project to help young directors started this February.

But fewer young directors are choosing to make art house films. Wu said investors are pushing them to chase profits.

Ning Hao is a good example. In 2006, his dark comedy *Crazy Stone* earned over 10 million yuan on a 1-million-yuan budget. Three years later, *Crazy Racer* once again profited 10 times over: it brought in 100 million yuan on a 10-million-yuan budget.

That is not to say commercial film is bad. It offers young directors a chance to learn how the big-budget business works.

This February, Wang Quan'an's art house film *Apart Together* won the Silver Bear for best screenplay at 60th Berlin International Film Festival. It tells the story of a former Kuomintang soldier who, 50 years after leaving the mainland, returns to Shanghai to find his first love.

The film has not yet to be accepted by a commercial theater. But Wang is still fighting in hopes of a commercial screening that will let more people experience his work.

# The strangest, yet purist physicist

By Charles Zhu

It is good to be logical, but, it will be funny if one relentlessly applies logic to everything.

Graham Farmelo, a senior research fellow at the Science Museum in London, takes readers through the life of one such man in *The Strangest Man*, his wonderfully written biography of Paul Dirac, the father of modern quantum theory and the 1933 Nobel laureate for physics.

The physicist, born in 1902, predicted the existence of antimatter in 1928 because his just-discovered relativistic electron equation required it, and he soon worked out some of quantum mechanics' key equations.

His genius won him a position as Cambridge's Lucasian professor of mathematics at 29. As he was a Cambridge don, his food and bed were made for him and he was able to work according to his own tight routine. Dirac was at the height of his creativity as he laid the foundations of modern microelectronics.

He was given countless awards and accolades and made a member of the Order of Merit and, after his death, was commemorated in Westminster Abbey's science corner.

Farmelo's biography reveals a man with an extraordinary understanding of the structure of the physical world, yet a lack of understanding of this less logical world in which people live. There were thousands of humorous tales told in the community of his strange ways: his monosyllabic approach to conversation and his conduct as if living in an alternative universe.

In August 1929, Werner Heisenberg, a quantum physicist, and Dirac were sailing on a cruise ship to a conference in Japan. Heisenberg was a playboy in his 20s who constantly flirted and danced with women on the ship while Dirac suffered tremendously if forced into small talk.

"Why do you dance?" Dirac asked Heisenberg. "When there are nice girls, it is a pleasure," Heisenberg replied. Dirac thought it over and asked: "But, Heisenberg, how do you know beforehand that the girls are nice?" Dirac once ate his dinner in silence until his companion asked, "Have you been to the theater or cinema this week?" and Dirac replied, "Why do you wish to know?"

At Cambridge University in 1930, Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar took a class under the 28-year-old Dirac. Chandrasekhar described Dirac as a "lean, meek, shy young 'Fellow' who goes slyly along the streets. He walks quite close to the walls (like a thief!), and is not at all healthy." But Dirac's class was "just like a piece of music you want to hear over and over again."

He was a man who lacked basic social skills and never laughed in life. He ate only the plainest of foods and, in reply to his wife Mancini demanding, after a row, what he would do if she left him, looked puzzled before replying: "I would say goodbye, dear."

His close friends included the theoretical physicist Robert Oppenheimer, Heisenberg and Einstein. "This balancing on the dizzying path between genius and madness is

awful," Einstein once said of Dirac.

Dirac might right attribute his weaknesses to his father, a Swiss immigrant who was violent at home. "I never knew love or affection when I was a child," he had said.

In the book, Farmelo gives an account of a sudden outburst of anger on the part of Dirac when his biologist colleague Kurt Hofer visited him. Dirac kept talking continuously for two hours about his monstrous father. By the end of the visit, Hofer could not help asking himself, over and again: "Why was Paul so bitter, so obsessed with his father?"

However, Farmelo argues that the problem lay with his genes. Both father and son had autism.

"Dirac's traits as a person with autism were crucial to his success as a theoretical physicist: his ability to order information about mathematics and physics in a systematic way, his visual imagination, his self-centredness, his concentration and determination," Farmelo says.

"His great discoveries were like exquisitely carved marble statues falling out of the sky." Dirac's discoveries "seemed to be able to conjure laws of nature from pure thought. It was this purity that made him unique," Freeman Dyson noted.

Farmelo described Dirac as the "Trotsky of theoretical physics," possibly because his work was a constant revolution of ideas. In the eyes of Danish physicist Niels Bohr, Dirac was "the purest soul," and "the strangest man who ever visited my institute."

"Graham Farmelo has found the subject he was born to write about, and brought it off triumphantly. His book is a monumental achievement—one of the great scientific biographies." —MICHAEL PRATT

## The Strangest Man

THE HIDDEN LIFE OF PAUL DIRAC,  
MYSTIC of the ATOM



**The Strangest Man: The Hidden Life of Paul Dirac, Mystic of the Atom**  
By Graham Farmelo, 560pp, Basic Book, \$29.95

## Bookworm booklisting

Vivian Wang from the Bookworm recommends the following bestsellers to *Beijing Today* readers.

### Racing While Black

By Leonard T. Miller and Andrew Simon, 320pp, Seven Stories Press, \$24.95

The book talks about a few of the lessons learned by Leonard T. Miller during his decade and a half of running an auto racing program. Fueled by more than the desire to win, Miller made it his goal to create opportunities for black drivers in the vastly white, Southern world of National Association of Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR).

### Shanghai's Dancing World

By Andrew David Field, 384pp, The Chinese University Press, \$18.95

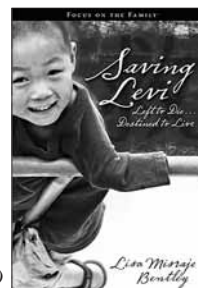
Drawing upon a unique and untapped reservoir of newspapers, magazines, novels, government documents, photographs and illustrations, this book traces the origin, pinnacle and ultimate demise of a commercial dance industry in Shanghai between the end of World War I and the early years of the People's Republic of China.

### Saving Levi

By Lisa Misraja Bentley, 176pp, Tynedale House Publishers, \$13.99

Lisa and John Bentley went to China to build an orphanage in a village near Beijing. Soon after their arrival, a 6-week-old baby boy, with burns on 70 percent of his body, was found in a field and brought to them. It was just the beginning of Levi's story. The book brings together the stories of believers and non-believers alike whom God used to save the life of a little boy.

(By He Jianwei)



## Fall of the Pagoda records Eileen Chang's childhood

By Han Manman

Following the best-selling work *Little Reunion*, another of Eileen Chang's semi-autobiographical novels, *The Fall of the Pagoda* is being published to commemorate the 80th anniversary of Chang's birth and the 15th anniversary of her death.

Song Yilang, executor of Chang's estate, said the title symbolizes the collapse of traditional society and feudalism.

Chang wrote the book based on her experience of the changes in Chinese society and was influenced by her family's suffering. Its second half, *Book of Change*, will be published this September.

*Fall of the Pagoda*, originally written in English, was finished in 1963 while Chang was in the US. Song said Chang had tried to contact American publishers to release the book, but they said a story about a heroine's childhood in China would not appeal to American readers.

"However, through a letter Chang wrote to her friend we have learned that she wanted to publish her English work very much and never believed the book was not

good enough," Song said.

*Fall* introduces a young girl growing up in Shanghai amid many family entanglements with her divorced mother and spinster aunt during the 1930s, when the International Settlement in Shanghai was known as the "lonely isle," a place relatively safe from the invading Japanese army.

Song said the book was finished 10 years before *Little Reunion*, which was one of the top 10 bestsellers in China last year. Many details and scenes from *Fall of the Pagoda* were recycled in the later work.

*The Book of Change*, the second of two semi-autobiographical novels, narrates her experience as a student at the University of Victoria in Hong Kong, including the fall of Hong Kong after Pearl Harbor, at the end of 1941.

The novels contain lengthy discussions of the relationship between a fictionalized Chang and her selfishly demanding mother, as well as of intricate dynamics in the extended families who emerged from aristocratic households of the late Qing Dynasty.

While the main characters



**The Fall of the Pagoda**  
By Eileen Chang, 288pp, Hong Kong University Press, \$17.95

belong to the new Republican period, their views and everyday lives remain haunted by shadows of the past.

Chang was known for being unsociable and extremely private. That she was only discovered several days after her death in 1995 testifies to her seclusion. Her work frequently dealt with the tensions of love.



# AUTO CHINA TOP 10 Is the road ready for new energy?



By Wang Yu

Driving in Beijing can be a nightmare during the rush hour. Even though everyone knows cars are killing the environment and contributing to noise pollution, the number of new vehicles continues to climb.

But industry insiders are looking to an alternative for long distance travel: new-energy cars.

This year's Beijing International Auto Exhibition, which opened last Sunday, is focused on green technology. Its exhibition hall brings together 95 new-energy cars ready for the market.

While the refreshing designs caught a lot of attention, it seems like it will still be a long wait before gas-free cars seize the road.

Thirty of the 95 new-energy cars at the exhibition will enter mass production this year. The message is clear: manufacturers are prepared for the new battlefield.

Despite crisis-level defects in its cars, Toyota's Prius has established its reputation in North America and Europe. The Honda Civic Hybrid is also seen on streets overseas.

Volkswagen announced 10 new-energy cars that will be joining its product line in the next three years. Even brands like BMW, Audi and Mercedes-Benz plan to get in on the competition.

Unlike the last automobile revolution, Chinese fans won't be left out of the technological leap. In a sense, Chinese carmakers are leading the new fashion. BYD is cooperating with Mercedes-Benz on its new-energy products and GM's concept car EN-V's battery is produced in China.

Shanghai Auto's concept car Leaf represents the company's proactive insight. It harnesses both solar and wind power and features a carbon dioxide-absorbing chassis that works like photosynthesis in plants, emitting oxygen as a byproduct and contributing to negative emissions.

But new-energy cars still have a long way to go in China.

Vincent Wen, a 28-year-old IT engineer, just brought a Volkswagen Polo. The car is comparably cheap and the engine size is 1.4 liters. He had been interested in a new-energy car, but the high price scared him away.

"Driving a new-energy car saves on gas and helps to protect the environment. But we don't have many choices. The Civic Hybrid costs over 250,000 yuan, which is too much for me," Wen says.

Wen's concerns reflect a greater energy dilemma.

The Civic Hybrid was introduced to China in November 2007. The company had sold 20 as of mid-2009. Toyota's Prius, the first hybrid car to enter mass production, was released in China on December 25. To date, the carmaker has sold 900 cars on the mainland.

The company said it is still cultivating the Chinese market, where buyers are disinterested in hybrid power.

Most Chinese buyers who can afford new-energy cars care more about comfort and speed, which are rarely considerations when designing new cars.

Buyers like Wen, who put transportation first, can accept concept cars though they remain out of his price range.

"Car culture has only been in China for about 30 years, so many buyers have already been waiting a long time. It seems natural that they are after fancy designs and powerful engines," says Chase Wang, an auto magazine editor.

"I think as the traffic gets worse we will see people realizing the importance of new energy. They will gradually accept new concepts," Wang says.

The government may also play a role.

Domestic carmaker Cherry released four new-energy cars at the exhibition which are ready for manufacturing. However, though the technology is ready for the market, charging stations for the cars are still unavailable, and that is a problem the carmakers cannot solve alone.

"Besides supporting facilities, how to recycle electric cars is another issue. New-energy cars may remain unpopular until these problems are solved," says Wei Wengqing, vice manager of the commerce department.



New-energy cars may one day help bring order to the road.

## Coming soon to a road near you

### GM EN-V

One of the most remarkable designs in the exhibition, the EN-V (Electric Networked-Vehicle) is a concept car which won't hit the roads for a long while. However, its concept has already hit drivers.

The two-seater EN-V is a third the length of a regular car at 1.5 meters. As an evolved platform of Segway, it will be equipped with wireless communication and GPS-based navigation that will help avoid accidents and pick the fastest routes based on real-time traffic conditions. Power for the motors is provided by lithium-ion batteries that produce zero emissions.

GM expects the EN-V, if put into production, to cost less than a small car but more than a moped. Such vehicles will be shown at the Shanghai World Expo.



### Honda EN-V

This vehicle is as cute as the cars in Japanese comic books.

The concept car is a retro-styled battery-powered vehicle with a face of a pug puppy crossed with features like swappable seat fabrics, a solar roof and a "communications system" embedded in the black front fascia.

First introduced at the Tokyo Moto Show last year, the EN-V runs on an electric battery and features a large solar roof to generate additional power. The interior will feature customizable seat covers and a small electric unicycle in the passenger's side door.

Its front is a flat panel with embedded lighting which can shine a variety of patterns. The back seats of the small car fold flat for extra cargo room.



### Geely IG

Chinese fans have long considered domestic carmakers to be copycats.

But Geely has made a breakthrough.

The Geely version of the IG Fantastic Concept that was introduced in Shanghai last year. The car features new seagull doors and shifts from the former 3+1 seating arrangement to a conventional 2+2.

The new compact car will be a hybrid electric vehicle combining a 1-liter conventional internal combustion engine propulsion system, an electric propulsion system and a set of solar cells.

The company says that the cost of the vehicle is about 10,000 yuan and the price will vary by engine system. The IG may be on sale in 2012.



### IAT Zhu Feng

Chinese auto design company IAT unveiled its concept car Zhufeng together with two other new types in Beijing. Zhu Feng means Bamboo Wind in Chinese, which is apparent in its theme color and painting.

A 24 kilowatt-hour lithium-ion battery pack is used as the main energy supply allowing the car to reach a top speed of 145 kilometers per hour. It can travel 160 kilometers on each charge.



### Nissan Leaf

The Nissan Leaf is a compact five-door hatchback battery electric car. It uses a front-mounted electric motor that drives the wheels powered by a 24 kilowatt-hour lithium ion battery pack - which is made of air-cooled stacked laminar cells with manganese oxide in the cathodes.

The battery can be charged from 480-volt, 220-volt and 110-volt sources. The Leaf has a standard connector for 220/110-volt AC outlets and appears to use the TEPCO connector for high-voltage. Such facilities allow the car to be charged in both normal and quick modes. Nissan said the car has a top speed of 140 kilometers per hour.

Leaf sales are scheduled to begin in North America, Europe and Japan in late 2010, with global market rollout planned for 2012.



## Serious gear for serious runners

By Liang Meilan

The North Face Endurance Challenge is returning back to Beijing for its second year on May 8. Hundreds of amateur and professional runners have signed up for the event's 10-, 50- and 100-kilometer courses.

Because serious runners need serious gear, the American outdoor sports apparel manufacturer recommends the products below.

### Trajectory Hybrid Jacket, 1,498 yuan

Waterproof jacket designed to protect runners from early summer rain showers. The thin and lightweight material reduces wind resistance while the breathable woven back helps manage perspiration during exercise. It has reflective logos and glow-in-the-dark zipper pulls for night running.

### Insult Hill Seamless Crew, 498 yuan

A lightweight, breathable shirt that keeps the body cool during prolonged exercise. It has been designed without seams that can abrade or chafe the skin and it matches The North Face's hydration pack.

### Vaporwick Endurance Cap, 148 yuan

A breathable, fast drying cap for endurance exercises in warm climates. Mesh panels on the sides

allow heat to easily escape, while the brushed sweat-band keeps perspiration out of the eyes. The material moves perspiration to the outer layer of the fabric where it evaporates, keeping the scalp cool and dry.

### Enduro Boa Hydration Pack, 998 yuan

This 1.5-liter drinking kit reservoir can be compressed by tightening the Boa system, holding water firmly to the back to avoid the annoying sloshing.

It minimizes abrasion of the shoulders and back by redistributing the weight across the upper body and uses Velcro closures rather than skin-irritating clasps. Its mesh material promotes ventilation to keep the skin dry and comfortable. The pack also has a large exterior pocket for stowing a jacket, snacks and other runner's essentials.

Registration for the Beijing leg of The North Face Endurance Challenge is still open. For more information, call The North Face flagship store.

### The North Face flagship store

Where: S8, 1F, Sanlitun Village, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6417 3290

Open: 9 am – 10 pm



Jacket, 1,498 yuan



Seamless shirt, 498 yuan

Photos provided by The North Face



Silver pendant, 300 yuan

Photo by Liu Jianhang



Document folder, 68 yuan

## Hand-made silver jewelry by village artisans

By Liang Meilan

Because of the country's rapid industrialization, small-time silver workshops in rural areas have been marginalized and silversmiths who for decades have crafted exquisite pieces are losing their livelihood.

To support village artisans and help keep silver crafting alive, a company named Unconstrained Art and its non-profit subsidiary Hand Affection Craft Organization have set up a fair-trade project for hand-made craft. The organizations are working with members of Rural Craft Cooperatives, impoverished silver artisans in Guizhou and Yunnan provinces, to continue producing hand-made silver jewelry and ornaments. Besides providing fair-trade business opportunities, the organizations also offer local artisans training in production and design.

Their products are sold online on shop36502625.taobao.com. In Beijing, they are available at Brand Nü, a shop in Nanluoguxiang. Unconstrained Art will open the city's first fair-trade fine silver ornament shop at Solana Mall today. Check out the shops to kill two birds with one stone: support village artisans and local handicrafts while staying stylish.

### Brand Nü

Where: 61 Wudaoying Hutong, Dongcheng District

Tel: 15011153421

### Unconstrained Art shop

Where: Solana Mall, 6 Chaoyang Gongyuan Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 5905 6565

Web: handaffection.org, shop36502625.taobao.com



Fish-skin bag, 225 yuan



Foldable shopping bag, 45 yuan

Photos by Yang Yun

## Earth-friendly summer bags

By Liang Meilan

In this age of electric cars, buildings made of used plastic bottles and carbon-credit purchases, fashion designers are guided by the motto "green is the new black." One of them, Wei Minghui, a local graphic designer, found his green inspiration in tarpaulin.

Wei collected discarded tarpaulin for street-side ads in Dongcheng District and turned them into practical yet stylish items like sporting bags, wallets and file folders. He named his brand Neicun, or "memory," in honor of his creations' former lives.

Wei's production process begins with cutting out "interesting" portions of the posters: figures, logos, symbols.

He then disinfects the material and then sews two layers together to ensure the durability of his products. Since posters are fountains of bright colors, Wei's tarpaulin-made bags are perfect for summer.

Neicun items, which cost from 40 to 420 yuan, are available at Original Design Circle, a shop that supports local designers. The shop's latest products include Delia bags, adorned with die-cut scales and perfect for a day at the mall or a trip to the beach.

### Original Design Circle

Where: Room 10, Basement of South Zone, Sanlitun Village, 19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am – 9 pm

Tel: 6415 2472

Web: chinesedesign.org



# Sushi for spring



Urchin sashimi, 60 yuan

By Annie Wei

Spring is a time to welcome back with open arms Japanese food – lean and light fare suited to the warming weather.

La Sushi on the second floor of Nali Patio in Sanlitun has opened at just the right time. Customers love its cozy and intimate atmosphere as much as its menu.

But you better prepare your wallet if you go. The restaurant's specialty, fat tuna sushi, costs 26 to 85 yuan an order. It guarantees the fish's freshness: the management says new orders are delivered every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

We recommend La Sushi's urchin sashimi (60 yuan), roasted jack mackerel (85 yuan) and baby abalone (35 yuan), especially favored by women as an energy source. A glass of sake (120-1,000 yuan per bottle) enjoyed with friends is the perfect match to Japanese specialties.

Sushi or sashimi, should be eaten with care. Cai Lan, a leading food critic from Hong Kong, said that traditional restaurants in Japan would never sell tuna sashimi because of bacteria concerns. He said the Japanese believe that only deep-sea fish are clean enough to be made into sashimi – which excludes tuna.

Cai also said some restaurants do not offer salmon sashimi because of its distinctly strong smell, and that the best sushi or sashimi restaurants in Japan sell only roasted harashu, the fattest part of the salmon belly, since the fish meat stays red even if it has gone bad. So *Beijing Today* suggests ordering these tricky dishes only at established restaurants that know their stuff.

## La Sushi

Where: 2/F, Nali Patio, 81 Sanlitun Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 11 am – 10 pm

Tel: 5208 6120



Tuna sushi, 26-85 yuan

Photos by Yu Tingmei



Lunch set includes a vegetable basket (left) and beef (right), 39 yuan

Photos by Wendy Zha

## Hot pot for beauty

By Annie Wei

Chinese women believe fibrous protein in bone, cartilage and tendon promotes beautiful skin. No wonder there are places like Xunxian that specialize in "collagen hot pot," a dining concept that originated in Taiwan.

Xunxuan, a two-story affair with simple decor, joined the stable of Workers' Stadium dining establishments two months ago. It serves high-quality hot-pot meat at a cost. Its wagyu, or kobe, beef is 888 yuan for every 150 grams, while the top beefsteak is 188 yuan for every 200 grams.

For a group dinner, we recommend throwing into your broth sake beef (58 yuan), average fat beef (28 yuan) or sheep fillet (28 yuan). You can also try the Inner Mongolian lamb (25 yuan) or fresh goose meat (35 yuan), which are rarely found in hot-pot restaurants. The meat almost melts in your mouth.

Unlike your average hot-pot restaurant that mainly serves three dipping sauces, Xunxian offers six home-made choices: citrus vinegar sauce, gold calix spicy sauce, Taiwan-style satay paste sauce, Hong Kong-style seafood soy sauce, peanut sauce, preserved tofu sauce and the ever-present sesame sauce. For extra zing, you can add hot chili, minced coriander, quick-fried minced garlic, scallion, ginger or chili oil. All sauces are 5 yuan a bowl, except for the preserved tofu sauce, which is served free.

As for the star of the meal – the hot-pot broth – we recommend Xunxian's specialties: Chinese caterpillar fungus and cattle tail broth (35 yuan), snowsaurea and black-boned chicken broth (35 yuan), Japanese kombu seafood broth (25 yuan) and green papaya and abalone broth (28 yuan). It also serves the more common Sichuan-style spicy broth (15 yuan) and plain soup (12 yuan).

The best deals are undeniably the restaurant's lunch sets, which cost 39 to 49 yuan. The New Zealand lamb set meal (39 yuan) is a steal: lamb cuts, vegetables, salted meat and vegetable rice, an egg, corn salad, spicy or plain soup, mango pudding and a glass of lemon juice. For another 28 yuan, you get a small bottle of collagen powder for the soup, which promises an extra dose of fiber.

Diners who present a coupon from dianping.com, a Chinese-restaurant review site, can choose between a free order of spicy or plain soup or a pair of collagen eye masks.

The restaurant management said it will soon sell beauty products like collagen masks.

## Xunxian Collagen Hot Pot

Where: Station 1 of Workers' Stadium, Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 11 am – 2 am next day

Tel: 6553 9997

## Shaanxi street food round the clock

By Annie Wei

The opening of Huangheshui inside the Workers' Stadium three months ago is a blessing to clubbers who suddenly find themselves in need of nourishment at 3 or 4 am.

Huangheshui earned a reputation for delicious and inexpensive Shaanxi snacks at its first store on Meisuguan Hou Street, Dongcheng District. It was no wonder the small and humble eatery was always packed.

Its new location in Chaoyang District is more spacious – there are two floors – but the prices remain low. *Beijing Today* recommends its most popular dishes like youbo lazimian (12 yuan), noodles in black vinegar and soy sauce, drizzled with chili oil and served with spinach; suantang shuijiao (10 yuan), pork-filled dumplings in hot and sour broth with coriander leaves; and paomo (12 yuan), a bowl of baked unleavened bread broken into bite-sized morsels and stewed in lamb stock.

Those who are looking for

more volume can try roujiamo (6 yuan), crispy unleavened bread stuffed with braised five-spice-flavored pork.

Shaanxi natives love their mipi, rice noodles (6 yuan). It is made from steamed rice milk solidified into sheets and then brushed with oil to prevent the pieces from sticking together. Once cool, they are cut into strips and then boiled. Mipi is usually served with spicy bean sprouts.

The restaurant also serves cold dishes like qiangchao tudousi, stir-fried potato threads (6 yuan) and yangrouchuan (2 yuan each).

For an authentic Shaanxi experience, try the *choujiu*, or millet wine (5 yuan per glass), which has a relatively low alcohol content and is practically drunk by locals every day.

## Huangheshui

Where: Station 5 of The Workers' Stadium, Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 24 hours

Tel: 6404 4526



Yupo chemian, 12 yuan

CFP Photo

# The Philadelphia Orchestra's new leader

By He Jianwei

After three fruitless years of searching for a leader, The Philadelphia Orchestra's hunt ended last September with the appointment of Charles Dutoit as its music director and chief conductor.

Born in Lausanne, Switzerland, the 73-year-old Dutoit is known for his interpretations of French and 20th century Russian music and for turning the Montreal Symphony Orchestra into a recording sensation.

But Dutoit has a longer history with The Philadelphia Orchestra – going back before 1980, when he conducted the group for the first time in a performance of works by France's Hector Berlioz and Russia's Sergei Rachmaninoff and Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov.

"My feelings for [it] were established long ago, when, as a young student in Geneva, I heard the Philadelphia Orchestra perform in my home country. The sound they produced impressed me so profoundly that finding myself in front of this wonderful orchestra in 1980 was the climax of my studies," Dutoit said.

All through the '90s, he again found himself collaborating with the orchestra on its summer concerts at the Mann

Center for the Performing Arts, Philadelphia, and its summer festivals in Saratoga Springs, New York.

"The summer seasons allowed us, the Philadelphia Orchestra and I, to explore so many different repertoires that they forged a strong relationship between us," Dutoit said. "In Saratoga alone, I conducted 200 programs."

Next month, Dutoit and The Philadelphia Orchestra will perform in Beijing; the second and last day will be wholly dedicated to Russian maestro Igor Stravinsky. "Russian ballets by Stravinsky are very important repertoires for all orchestras and are a substantial part of my career," Dutoit said.

But there will be something extra special on the first day of performance: Rachmaninoff's "Symphonic Dances," which Dutoit regards as The Philadelphia Orchestra's "signature piece" and the "most unforgettable" in their partnership.

## Charles Dutoit and The Philadelphia Orchestra Concert

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: May 4-5, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 280-1,280 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000



Charles Dutoit

Photo provided by NCPA

## Upcoming

### Nightlife

#### Asaf Avidan & The Mojos

Avidan, a Jerusalem-born and bred singer-songwriter, assembled his Israeli band while on a tour of the country with his guitar and harmonica.

Where: Yugongyishan, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng District  
When: May 3, 9 pm  
Admission: 50 yuan advance purchase, 80 yuan at the door  
Tel: 6404 2711

## Stage in May

### Concert

#### Charles Dutoit and The Philadelphia Orchestra

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: May 4-5, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 280-1,680 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

#### Martin Stadtfeld and Festival Strings Lucerne

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: May 14, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 80-400 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

#### Secret Garden Beijing Tour 2010

Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng District  
When: May 29-30, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 180-1,580 yuan  
Tel: 6590 3377

### Dance

#### Don Quixote by the Bolshoi Theater

Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District  
When: May 3-5, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 280-1,280 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

#### Akram Khan's Modern Dance Bahok

Where: Mei Lanfang Grand Theater, 32 Ping'anli Xi Dajie, Xicheng District  
When: May 14-15, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 80-580 yuan  
Tel: 5833 1210

### Drama

#### Sweet, Sweet Love

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District  
When: May 19-23, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 180-680 yuan  
Tel: 6551 8058

#### The Life Attitude of Two Dogs

Where: Oriental Pioneer Theater, 8-2 Dongdan Santiao Wangfujing, Dongcheng District  
When: May 17 – June 13, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 100 and 180 yuan  
Tel: 6275 8452

(By He Jianwei)

## 5 Friday, April 30

### Movie

#### Pa-ra-da (2008)

The true story of French clown Miloud Okuli's experiences in Romania, from his arrival in 1992 to his encounter with the street children of Bucharest, who eke out a living through begging, petty crime and prostitution.

Where: Italian Cultural Institute, 2 Dong Er Jie, Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District  
When: 7:30 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 6532 2187

### Nightlife

#### Fenni

Fenni is the lead vocalist of Tripazia, a band that colors the air with jazz, blues, trip-hop and post punk.

Where: VA Cafe and Bar, 13 Wudaoying Hutong, Dongcheng District  
When: 9:30 pm

Admission: 30 yuan  
Tel: 5844 3638

### Exhibition

#### Fat Art 2010

A collaboration between indie record label Modern Sky and Today Art Museum, the event brings together music and visual art created by Chinese and foreign talents.

Where: Building 6, Sanlitun North Area, Sanlitun Village, 19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District  
When: Until May 16, daily, 10 am – 6 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 5978 9781



## 6 Saturday, May 1

### Movie

#### A Dedicated Life (1994)

Kazuo Hara, Japan's so-called "outlaw filmmaker," tells the turbulent life of Mitsuharu Inoue, a writer and former leader of the Japanese Communist Party, who battled liver cancer until his death in 1992.

Where: Iberia Center for Contemporary Art, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 1 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 5978 9537

### Nightlife

#### Hao Fei'er Four Seasons Live

Hao, a contestant in the TV talent show *Super Girl* in 2004, has won many fans with her bossa nova.

Where: Jianghu Bar, 7 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiaodaokou Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 9:30 pm  
Admission: 40 yuan  
advance purchase, 50 yuan at the door  
Tel: 6401 4611

### Exhibition



#### Hard-boiled Wonderland and the End of the World

Chen Ke paints an imaginary world that seeks the ties between life and art.

Where: Star Gallery, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District  
When: Until May 31, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 5978 9224

## Sunday, May 2

### Movie

#### Fondamenta Delle Convertite (2008)

A documentary about a year in the women's prison Fondamenta Delle Convertite in Venice, where detainees from around the world, their children and penitentiary officials live in promiscuity and survive by skillfully navigating the intricacies of power, loyalty and affection.

Where: Broadway Cinematheque, 2/F Building 4, North section of the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA), 1 Xiang-

heyuan Lu, Dongcheng District  
When: 2 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 8438 8258 ext. 8008

### Exhibition



#### Araki's World

An exhibition of Japanese artist Nobuyoshi Araki's works of the last 40 years, featuring

his trademark shots of lust, life and death. It includes 700 photos from the series *Diaries 1*, *Diaries 2*, *Flowers*, *Tokyo Cityscapes* and *A's Paradise*.

Where: ShanghART Gallery Beijing, 261 Caoshangdi Village, Chaoyang District  
When: Until June 13, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 6432 3202

### Nightlife

#### Funeral for a Friend

This nine-year-old Welsh rock band is touring to promote the latest of its four albums.

Where: Yugongyishan, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng District  
When: 9 pm  
Admission: 200 yuan  
advance purchase, 260 yuan at the door  
Tel: 6404 2711





# Keep neck and shoulder pain at bay



By Li Zhixin

Vivien Chen, 32, editor at a municipal TV station, has been complaining of neck pain for weeks. "I have difficulty moving my neck, especially to one side," she said.

The problem is more severe for Zhang Zheng, 29, an IT worker. "My arms and hands become numb, tingle or weaken after sitting in front of the computer for several hours," he said.

Neck pain is one of the most common complaints in the office, possibly as common as the common cold.

Most causes of neck pain are not serious. Neck muscles are usually strained from poor posture, such as leaning over a keyboard at work or hunching over your desk at home.

"Bad posture and prolonged sitting have become the main causes of cervical spondylosis," said Hai Yong, an orthopedist at Beijing Chaoyang Hospital. "If you work for long hours in front of the computer, you must let your neck and shoulders relax by taking frequent breaks."

Neck pain can begin from any structure of the neck, he said. This includes muscles and nerves, as well as spinal vertebrae and the cushioning disks in between. Neck pain may also come from the shoulder, jaw, head and upper arms.

"If your neck pain involves nerves, as in a significant muscle spasm or a slipped disk pressing on a nerve, you may feel numbness and tingling in your arms and hands," Hai said.

As neck pain worsens, many doctors recommend surgery. However, in most of the cases, a hot compress of herbal medicine and physical therapy can provide some relief, he said.

## 1. Hot compression

Heat 50 grams of cumin and 50 grams of salt and then bag it. Apply it to the neck for 30 minutes every day to improve circulation and relieve muscular spasms and pain before they can become a flare up.

## 2. Keep neck warm

Use a scarf or shawl in the summer when you are in an air-conditioned

room. Office workers can drink simple teas to stay warm. "Steeping several pieces of ginger with two spoonfuls of brown sugar can help enhance circulation," Hai said.

## 3. Do circles

Stand straight with your feet a shoulder's width apart and your hands on your hips. Do half circles in the front by moving your neck from left to right. Look to the left and then slowly drop your chin to your chest and bring it up to the right. Repeat the exercise turning your head back to the left. Do the exercise in sets of five reps of slow, controlled rotations.

## 4. Shoulder hunches

Stand straight with your feet a shoulder's width apart. Lift up your shoulders so they are hunched, then relax. Do 50 reps of this exercise. Then roll your shoulders in a circular, clockwise motion with your hands along the sides of your body. Repeat going counter-clockwise for another 30 reps.

## 5. Arm lifts

Place your arms straight out in front of you with your palms facing each other. Lift your arms and bring them near your ears and while doing so, inhale. Do 30 reps slowly and see whether you can bring the arms close to the ears without any pain and difficulty. If you are not able to do this exercise, you should consult your physical therapist.

## 6. Right pillow

Many people go to sleep at night and aren't aware that their pillow is working against them. Most pillows are not designed to provide the kind of support needed to allow a person to relax and rest without putting pressure on the discs of the neck. Finding the right pillow to ease neck pain and tension is important to both sleep and health.

"Keeping the neck and shoulders straight, supported and slightly elevated while you are sleeping has many benefits. You will breathe better, will not wake up tired, and will not be in pain when you awake," Hai said.

Try using a neck pillow to improve posture and support while sleeping.

## Late night gaming kills memory, not sleep

By Li Zhixin

Recent research from Australia found that violent gaming before bed may not be robbing teens of needed sleep — though it may have other consequences.

Thirteen boys between the ages of 14 and 18, who typically fell asleep in less than 15 minutes, were fitted with electrodes while in bed and asked to either play Call of Duty 4: Modern Warfare or watch March of the Penguins for 50 minutes before attempting to sleep.

The 50 minute time limit was chosen as "it is the maximum amount of continuous play recommended by game marketer Sony Corporation."

Eleven teens took longer to fall asleep after playing the video game than after watching the documentary: two fell asleep faster. Four teens fell asleep during the documentary, a slow-moving and tranquil movie selected for its contrast to the frenetic video game.

The median time it took to fall asleep for those playing the video game was 7 minutes and 30 seconds; those watching the movie took 3 minutes.

The new study shows the direct effect of pre-sleep video game playing

on adolescents may be more modest than previously thought, suggesting that surveys linking stimulating pre-sleep activities to poor sleep need to be backed up with empirical evidence.

"However, the study was conducted in tightly controlled conditions," said Yang Xue, a neurologist at Beijing Jishuitan Hospital. "Being limited to 50 minutes didn't allow the teens to become emotionally invested in the video game."

Past studies found that strong emotional experiences linked to playing video games — especially violent ones — could impact the learning process. An hourlong gaming session before sleep caused a decline in verbal memory.

"Because recently acquired knowledge is very sensitive in the following hours, emotional experiences only hours after learning could negatively influence memorization," Yang said.

"While teens are the most avid players, more than half of all adults also play video games," she said. "Playing video games before bed can lead to significant increases in heart rate, blood pressure and respiratory rate and thus a higher arousal state of the central nervous system."



The associated sedentary lifestyle of gamers and obsessive Internet users can also cause other ailments, such as heart and muscle problems and obesity later in life.

She said watching the movie before bed did not affect memory performance or sleep pattern, but it did significantly

reduce the actual time spent sleeping versus the total time spent in bed.

"Do some stretches and drink a cup of hot milk or have a hot foot bath one hour before bed instead of playing video games or watching thrillers to improve your physical and mental state the next day," she said.

CFP Photos

# House of Tibet's Treasures

## Tibetan Culture Museum opens after three years of preparation

By Zhang Dongya

Tibetan Buddhist scroll paintings and statues and traditional Tibetan medicine are among the treasures housed in Beijing's Tibetan Culture Museum that opened March 28, Tibet's Serf Emancipation Day.

Located in the China Tibetology Research Center (CTRC) in Chaoyang District, the museum has 2,000 artifacts, including 10 first-class national cultural relics.

The museum is a way to understand Tibetan culture and history without making a trip to the Himalayan region.



Folk artists from Tibet demonstrate how to make handicrafts at the museum.  
Photo provided by Tibetan Culture Museum

### Tibet from prehistory

The two-story museum has five exhibition halls: two on history and the rest on culture. The first hall discusses Tibet's history from the prehistoric age to the present. Photographs of the Kanuo Ruins, discovered in 1977, show local life during the Neolithic Age. Digs uncovered flat-bottomed pottery, flat-topped cottages and stone axes.

The exhibition includes the painting "Bunian Tu," a renowned work by Yan Liben of the Tang Dynasty (618-907), which depicts Taizong Emperor receiving the ambassador of Tibet to arrange the marriage of a Tang princess. The piece is a replica of the one at the Palace Museum.

The next hall shows the changes in Tibet after the founding of the People's Republic in 1949 through photographs, diagrams and multimedia exhibits. A model depicts the government residential project for peasants and herdsmen set up in 2006. According to official data, at the end of 2009, as many as 1.2 million recipients had moved to the new houses.

There is also a model of the Qinghai-Tibet Railway, the world's highest-altitude train and the longest on a plateau. It marks every mountain, lake and station along the railway.

### Scripture on leaves, tree bark, woodblocks

The first hall of Tibetan culture is marked by Tibetan characters on the

door. Inside, visitors will see a variety of Tibetan Buddhist sutras, including an 11th-century sutra written on patra leaves, a mode of scripture writing that is said to have originated in India. Leaves were one of the main materials used to record scriptures in ancient times, but they were also easily damaged so well-preserved pieces are rare. There is another written on silver birch skin that dates back to the 13th century.

Sutras were also printed on woodblocks, such as the 555 pieces produced by the Dege Sutra-Printing House in Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan Province. The museum houses one of Dege's most precious woodblocks, created in 1703.

Two workers from Dege are currently stationed at the museum, showing visitors how to print sutras by hand on paper. There are four major parts to the painstaking process: cutting paper, processing ink, printing and lastly, binding.

For fun, there's a machine that helps visitors imitate Tibetan script. Their work – with their signature – is then saved in the machine and can be viewed by other people.

Another section introduces Tibetan medicine, including surgical equipment used by local doctors and medical *thangka*, Tibetan Buddhist scrolls used to supplement medical teachings. Beside it are woodblocks containing medical prescriptions.

Continued on page 21...



The Museum of Tibetan Culture opened in the China Tibetology Research Center after three years of preparation.



Two workers from Dege show visitors how to print sutra by hand on paper.

Old documents including honorary Tibetan certificates

Photos by Mockingbird



... continued from page 20

### Precious statues and scrolls

The second culture hall features 90 Tibetan Buddhist statues and 46 thangkas; the scrolls represent Tibetan culture's greatest achievements.

Among the statues are ones that resemble imperial-palace statues in the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1912) dynasties, which show a fusion of Han and Tibetan cultures. They are grouped by dynasty and identified according to the emperor's reign title, such as Yongle (1403-1424) and Xuande (1426-1435) in Ming and Qianlong (1736-1795) in Qing.

The exhibit includes the Five Dhyani Buddhas, also known as the Five Great Buddhas, which represent east, west, south, north and the center.

The next section presents the various kinds of thangka. There are cloth thangka, those with painting and embroidery and ones made of silk – some encrusted with gems and coral. The most common are the scroll paintings, the production of which involves praying, rendering and portraying.

Unlike the medical thangka in the first hall, the ones here depict Tibetan Buddhist deities produced from the 14th century to the People's Republic Period (1912-1949). One piece, drawn during the reign of Ming's Chenghua Emperor (1465-1487), contains pure gold, which brightens the entire piece.

Among the most precious thangka is "Sakyamuni Attains Enlightenment," created in the 15th century. The pictures depict the life of Sakyamuni, the founder of Buddhism, from birth to his attainment of nirvana. The scroll features bright colors and Sanskrit on the back, the meaning of which still eludes experts. A museum guide said that pictures in all narrative thangka tell their stories in a clockwise direction.

One distinct thangka is "Sakyamuni and Eight Bodhisattvas," an 18th-century work that includes an image rarely seen in Tibetan Buddhism: a glass bowl. The glass bowl was said to have originated in Indian thangkas of the 16th century and entered Tibet later.

There is also a display of dozens of Tibetan masks, classified as either religious or folk masks. The previous were used in religious activities, while the latter were worn during cultural performances and sacrificial rituals.

The last culture hall portrays the life of a typical Tibetan. Most of the articles on display came from locals, including a huge wooden loom, a hundred-year-old stone water mill and a butter churner that Tibetans use in daily life.

### Museum of Tibetan Culture

Where: China Tibetology Research Center, 131 Dong Beisanhuan Lu, Chaoyang District

Getting there: Take Subway Line 5 to Huixinxijie Beikou Station and take exit A.

Tel: 6491 4763

Cost: Free

Note: The museum is currently open only to groups with a booking.



A diorama showing the signing of the agreement for the peaceful liberation of Tibet in 1951. Photos by Mockingbird



A model of a government residential project set up in 2006 for Tibetan peasants and herdsmen.



The museum features 90 Tibetan Buddhist statues, some resembling imperial-palace statues in Ming and Qing.

Photos provided by Tibetan Culture Museum



A 14th-century gold seal



Important historical files on display

## Dining



### Mother's Day celebration

Gather the family at Scene a Cafe for a loving tribute brunch to the most important woman in your life. This Mother's Day, mothers will be honored with a sumptuous gourmet buffet of fresh seafood and traditional favorites. The meal includes a glass of champagne and free soft drinks and house wine. Fabulous raffle prizes are guaranteed to bring a glow to the faces of lucky mothers.

Where: Scene a Cafe, China World Hotel Beijing, 1 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

When: May 9

Cost: 388 yuan per person, subject to 15 percent

service charge  
Tel: 65052266 ext. 35

### Make a timeless memory

Show how you appreciate your mom this year by emailing what you would like to say to her to [onlinemarketing.chaoyang@westin.com](mailto:onlinemarketing.chaoyang@westin.com). Your entry could win you a hearty Mother's Day surprise including a one-night stay for you and your mom at the Westin Renewal Room and 50 minutes of Oriental Reflexology Treatment at the Heavenly Spa. Other prizes include a tailor-made Mother's Day gift prepared by The Westin Beijing Chaoyang. The award-winning Bubblicious Sunday Brunch and Simply Dimsum Brunch will host the day with the Pink Ribbon Foundation. Partial brunch proceeds will be donated to support relevant projects by the foundation.

Where: The Westin Beijing Chaoyang, 7 Dongsanhuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang District  
Tel: 5922 8880

### Thursday crawfish boils

Thursday nights NOLA is doing up a New Orleans-style crawfish boil. Plates are sold by the pound and served with all the fixin's: corn, potatoes and garlic. Paired with one of our micro-brewed beers, it makes for the perfect spring meal. Call to reserve: when the crawfish are gone they're gone.

Where: Nola Cafe, 11 Xiushui Nan Jie, Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

Tel: 8563 6215

### Travel by palate to Indonesia

In celebration of Indonesia and China's 60-year relationship, Lunar 8 Asian restaurant is cooking up a series of contemporary Indonesian dishes under the creative

direction of Chef William Wongso, food critic and consultant to Garuda Indonesia and host of the Indonesian cooking adventure series *Cerita Rasa William Wongso*.

Experience an Asian culinary journey at Lunar 8 that begins with the chef's delicate touch on the signature Peking duck and continues with tandoori chicken and fresh sushi rolls as well as other delicacies.

Where: Lunar 8 Asian restaurant, Fairmont Beijing, 8 Yong'an Dong Li, Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

When: May 14 - June 14

Tel: 8507 3618



### Roadhouse Grill

The Roadhouse Grill serves barbecued meats and veggies hot off its outdoor grill, fresh salads and home-made desserts beside the Mutianyu Great Wall. Enjoy a hearty BBQ dinner at the Roadhouse with live music and a lit fireplace.

Where: Roadhouse Grill, Mutianyu Village, Huairou District

Tel: 6162 6506

## Hotel



### Grand Hyatt Hong Kong Labor Day

The Labor Day Credit Package offers guests a complimentary upgrade to a Grand Harbour View Room, a breakfast buffet for two and HK \$800 (703 yuan) in credit each night. The benefits are valued at more than HK \$1,700. Guests may enjoy access to the 50-meter outdoor heated pool, five fitness and exercise studios and sauna facilities. Other recreational facilities include tennis courts, squash courts, a driving range and a large playground for children.

Where: Grand Hyatt Hong Kong, 1 Harbour Road, Hong Kong

When: April 30 - May 8

Tel: 852 2584 7038

### Mercure Beijing Downtown now Accor's 400th hotel

Accor group announced the opening of Mercure Beijing Downtown on April 20. The new facility is Accor's 9th hotel in the capital and the company's 400th in the Asia-Pacific region.

With 373 guest rooms, the hotel aims to deliver a restful stay and a comfortable work environment. Boasting a variety of local and international cuisines, Mercure Beijing Downtown strives to impress guests with a memorable dining experience. With a 600-square-meter pillarless ballroom and seven flexible conference rooms, it's also an ideal venue to hold all types of meetings and events. It also provides an extensive range of fitness and recreation facilities that include a fully-equipped fitness center, an indoor swimming pool and sauna and massage rooms.

Where: Mercure Beijing Downtown, 16 Xidawang Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Before May 31

Cost: 585 yuan (opening promotion)

Tel: 4008182688 (mainland) or 800938768 (Hong Kong)

### Shangri-La Ningbo hosts Expo 2010 theme forum

Ningbo will host the first Expo 2010 Shanghai China theme forum at the Shangri-La Hotel Ningbo on May 15 and 16. The forum will be in the spacious Ningbo Grand Ballroom and will discuss information technology and urban development. Five monthly theme forums will follow in the other host cities Hangzhou, Shaoxing, Nanjing, Suzhou and Wuxi.

Expo 2010 Shanghai China will run from May 1 to October 31. For more information visit [expo2010.cn](http://expo2010.cn) or [en.expo2010.cn](http://en.expo2010.cn).

### Time for a green ride

Sofitel Wanda Beijing has organized a series of Earth Guest Day Activities. To protect the environment, the hotel has encouraged 600 of its employees to bike to work the next few months. All Sofitel Wanda Beijing Ambassadors who ride a bicycle to work on that day can get a GREEN Product.

## Event

### Wind down at Wine Club

Hosted by Hilton's trail-blazing sommelier, Julia Zhu, Wine Club takes you on a virtual journey of the world's finest wine regions, with wine flights accompanied by expert commentary and a selection of delectable canapés. The event begins with a creative cocktail, followed by a fun and informative tasting of five wines.

Where: Hilton Beijing, 1 Dongfang Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Every Thursday, 6:30-10 pm

Cost: 150 yuan each (15 percent surcharge)

Tel: 5865 5030



### Singapore Airlines resumes European flight schedule

With the reopening of European airspace, Singapore Airlines is returning to a full European flight schedule. Customers booked on scheduled flights to and from Europe will be able to travel as planned.

As operations return to normal, customers who had their previous flights cancelled will be rebooked on flights subject to availability. Priority will be given to special needs or elderly customers and those with infants or young children. Following that, customers who have the earliest original departure dates will be assigned seats.

Tel: 0065 6223 8888 or 0065 6789 8188 (alternative arrangements and rebooking), 0065 6542 3311 (flight status and airport closures)

(By Sun Feng)





# 798 Art District's map gets an update



Photos by Mockingbird

## Life of an artist and his era

By Zhang Dongya

Six painters born between the 1950s and '80s illustrate changes in Chinese life and art in "163 Years of Obsession: Self-awareness & Literati Spirit," showing at Amelie Art Gallery through June 15.

"All the paintings exhibited are portraits, reflecting the artists' perception of themselves or their ideal images," says curator Tony Chang. "They also describe the different eras the artists lived in as they probed the manifestations of human dignity in those times." They have worked as artists a combined 163 years, hence the exhibition title.

The artists Duan Zhengqu and Zhu Jin were both born in the '50s. Duan found his niche in folksy Shaanxi and Henan paintings, while Zhu's work is characterized by ink drawn over earth tones.

Fan Bo, born in 1966, portrayed the intellectuals around him. All the people in his paintings appear over withered trees and branches; some look anxious, others cautious, but always self-

consciously defiant.

The youngest among the artists, Liu Ruizhao, born in 1983, derives inspiration from the spiritual realm. His love of solitude – he gardens and fishes during his spare time – is apparent in his art.

Beside his brief bio, each painter shares an unforgettable story about his life as an artist. "We are trying to show more facets of the artists, to tell people the whys and hows behind their works," Chang says.

"163 Years of Obsession" is the second in a series; last year, eight artists held a show featuring 195 years of work.

Amelie Art Gallery specializes in paintings and sculptures, and a fifth of its collection is comprised of modern and experimental art like installations.

**163 Years of Obsession: Self-awareness & Literati Spirit**

Where: Amelie Art Gallery, 798

Dong Jie, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: Until June 15, Wednesday – Sunday, 10 am – 6:30 pm

Tel: 5978 9698

By Jackie Zhang

The face of 798 Art District has changed drastically since the first galleries, artists' studios and design companies moved in in 2002. It is now less a hub of creativity and more a congregation of shops, restaurants and bars with the bonus atmosphere of a mid-19th century industrializing China – a welcome alternative to the crowded and noisy downtown shopping malls and commercial centers.

Yi House, the first and the only boutique hotel in the art district, opened last week. To mark the occasion, *Beijing Today* is updating its map of 798 Art District to include two new galleries and a shop.

## Beijing center of top US modern art gallery

By He Jianwei

Pace Gallery debuted in Boston in 1960 with a pop art show that included works by artists who would later become icons of the style: Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein, Claes Oldenburg and Robert Indiana. It was the first pop art exhibition outside New York City.

Three years later, the gallery moved to the Big Apple; four decades later, it has three locations in Manhattan and is one of the US's most important galleries of modern and contemporary art.

The year of the Beijing Olympics, Pace decided to branch out to the Chinese capital by opening its first overseas office at 798 Art District.

The gallery's founder Arne Glimcher saw in Beijing the potential of New York back in the mid-19th century.

"He saw the recent changes

in China, which reminded him of the atmosphere of New York in the 1960s. He moved his gallery to New York in the 1960s



Photos by He Jianwei

because he believed the center of contemporary art would soon move from Paris to New York.

"He felt Beijing will become the next center," says Leng Lin, a domestic art critic and now president of Pace Beijing.

Richard Gluckman, the New York architect who designed the Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh and oversaw the expansion of the Museum of Contemporary Art in San Diego, undertook the 136,000-million yuan Beijing project.

Pace Beijing plans host four to six exhibitions a year that will focus on Chinese art. It represents leading contemporary artists such as Zhang Xiaogang, known for his Bloodline series – monochromatic, stylized portraits with large, dark eyes, in stiff poses reminiscent of family photographs of the 1950s and '60s.

**Pace Beijing**

Where: Bei Sanjie, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: Daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm

Tel: 5978 9781



Photos by Mockingbird

## Art lovers' home away from home

By He Jianwei

If 798 Art District is the home of contemporary Chinese art, then Yi House is the home of 798. Through its Bauhaus architecture and first-rate service, the art district's first and only hotel seeks to become a home to visiting art lovers, says Shauna Liu, one of the owners.

The ground floor contains an exhibition area for contemporary artwork and the honor of being

the first went to a set of 13 black-and-white pieces, "Perception," by Italian photographer Marco Beretta.

The hotel, inaugurated last Wednesday, also houses modern masterpieces. On the third floor, "Mood is Never Better than Memory – June" a 1.4 meter by 3 meter painting by contemporary artist Chi Peng, runs the length of the wall from the VIP room entrance to the living room.

An exterior wall features bold and edgy graffiti spanning four floors, courtesy of French artist Franck Privat.

The hotel offers five types of rooms – single, standard, deluxe, deluxe suite

and superior deluxe suite – which cost between 900 and 4,000 yuan. As an inaugural promotion, the single rooms are currently priced 690 yuan, 25 percent off list price.

As with traditional Beijing homes, Yi House has a courtyard where guests can sit and read or enjoy a cup of tea or coffee while reveling in the peace and quiet.

The hotel also has a 24-hour restaurant, Fennel, which serves

Mediterranean specialties, like grilled prime cuts and seafood, designed by Executive Chef Christian Hoffmann, former head chef of Raffles Beijing. In-house guests receive a

complimentary breakfast. They can also opt for room service.

At night, Gossip Bar is the place to unwind or chat with friends over a glass of wine or a cocktail blended with seasonal ingredients.

**Yi House**

Where: No. 1, 706 Hou Jie, 798 Art District, Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6436 1818



Photo provided by Yi House

## Expert in hand-made treasures

By Zhang Dongya

U-CAN's inconspicuous facade and interior belies the fact that it is one of the most popular shops in 798. People are drawn to its inventive T-shirt designs, amusing decorations and retro-style household items – all of which are hand-made.

On the first floor of the two-story building are handicrafts made by some 40 Chinese artists. "They are skilled at redecorating ordinary articles and reusing discarded materials, which is attractive to young people and foreigners," Deng Hua, U-CAN's co-owner, says.

One bedside lamp is made of concrete but shaped like a Coca-Cola bottle. The limited-edition design by painter Li Xiaoyu costs 99 yuan.

Copies of old-fashioned household articles like cups and biscuit boxes are also for sale, a remembrance of life in the young People's Republic.

A distinctive set of rings (19 yuan each) features parts of a computer keyboard. There are also sculptures and T-shirts designed by students from the China Central Academy of Fine Arts as well as specialties from other provinces.

Some artists have turned a corner of the store into their workshop. One was drawing masks (20 yuan) with funny patterns and the latest buzz words in the Chinese virtual world. She also sold cloth shoes (120 yuan) hand-painted with traditional images like plum blossoms and Peking Opera masks.

The second floor is a dress shop that specializes in breathing new life to old clothes through colorful patchwork.

"Some people are not willing to throw out unfashionable T-shirts, so I add something new to make them look fresh," Yanzi, the tailor and shop owner, says. "It becomes a one-of-a-kind design, instead of those mass produced ones." Work takes one to two days and costs 60 yuan.

Yanzi also makes reversible pants that come in purple, green and yellow. Each costs between 180 and 200 yuan.

**U-CAN**

Where: Do8, Dong Jie, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am – 6:30 pm

Tel: 5978 9811

# 1. Amelie Art Gallery

Print works are the most important part of this gallery exhibition. With two major annual theme events, Fine Art Print Festival and Years of Obsession, Amelie Art Gallery has developed a great reputation.

Open: Wednesday – Sunday, 10 am – 6 pm  
Tel: 5978 9698

# 2. Triumph Art Space

Open: Tuesday – Sunday, 10 am – 6:30 pm  
Tel: 8459 9639

# 3. PACE Beijing

PaceWildenstein's first and only branch outside the US  
Open: Tuesday – Sunday, 10 am – 6 pm  
Tel: 5978 9781

# 4. Jin Richon Korean Restaurant

Open: 10 am – 10 pm  
Tel: 6437 9061

# 5. You Gallery

Open: Tuesday – Sunday, 10 am – 6 pm  
Tel: 13501256232

# 6. Galleria Continua

This Galleria Continua center in Beijing showcases Western contemporary artists in an area where they are still scarcely visible and largely unknown.  
Open: Tuesday – Sunday, 10:30 am – 6:30 pm  
Tel: 6436 1005

# 7. Café Pause

Open: 10 am – 9 pm  
Tel: 6431 6214

# 8. 3818 Cool Gallery

Open: Tuesday – Sunday, 10:30 am – 6:30 pm  
Tel: 8688 2525

# 9. U-CAN

Open: 10 am – 6 pm (to be revised)  
Tel: 5978 9811

# 10. Time Zone 8 Art Books Shop

This book store specializes in imported contemporary art, design, photography and architectural books and magazines. It has one of China's most comprehensive selections on contemporary art and culture.  
Open: 10 am – 8 pm  
Tel: 8456 0336



# 11. Cans Book Store

sells art books related to traditional and contemporary art.  
Open: Daily, 10:30 am – 7 pm  
Tel: 6435 2584

# 12. Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA)

UCCA is a non-profit, comprehensive art center founded by collectors Guy and Myriam Ullens last year. It presents exhibitions of established and emerging artists and a platform to share knowledge through education and research.  
Open: Tuesday – Sunday, 10 am – 7 pm  
Tel: 8459 9269

# 13. 798 Photo Gallery

Open: 10 am – 6 pm  
Tel: 6438 1784

# 14. Beijing Tokyo Art Projects

Open: Tuesday – Sunday, 10:30am – 6:30 pm  
Tel: 8457 3245

# 15. 798 Space

Open: 10:30 am – 7:30 pm  
Tel: 6437 6248

# 16. Cave Café

Open: 10:30 am – 11 pm  
Tel: 8456 5520

# 17. Vincent Café

Open: 11 am – midnight  
Tel: 8456 4823

# 18. China Art Seasons Gallery

China Art Seasons is the first major Singapore-owned art gallery on the mainland. It aims to promote both Chinese and Southeast Asian contemporary and experimental art.  
Open: Tuesday – Sunday 10:30am – 6:30 pm  
Tel: 6431 1900

# 19. Yi House

The first and only boutique hotel in 798.  
Open: 24 hours  
Tel: 6436 1818

(By Jackie Zhang)